

Yorkshire Naturalists' Union



BIRD REPORT for 1993

Compiled by W. F. CURTIS



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Report for 1993 Edited by W.F.Curtis

During the period covered by this Report a total of 299 species were recorded; of these 146 were proven breeders whilst a further four may have done so. One species, Blackpoll Warbler, was an addition to the County List, also being the first occurrence of this species in the eastern half of Britain.

Taking firstly breeding species, it is pleasing to report that most changes in status are upwards. Of the less common, Black-necked Grebe, after spasmodic records in recent years, gives the indications that a small colony has been established in the Lower Derwent Valley NNR. This same location also reported several pairs of both Garganey and Pintail, whilst Ruff was proven to have bred successfully though Black-tailed Godwit regrettably failed. Garganey possibly had the best year ever with records from several other locations. Wigeon bred in slightly larger numbers than in recent years; Honey Buzzards failed this year owing to disturbance from commercial tree-felling; details of Goshawks were very sketchy but it is still felt that, despite continued persecution in some areas, the overall trend is of an increase in numbers. Both Hen and Marsh Hamiers were successful, hopefully the start of colonisation, this seemingly definite with the latter. Buzzard continues to slowly extend its' toe-hold whilst the long-awaited return to the cliffs by Peregrine may have occurred. No confirmed breeding by Hobby was reported though birds were present in suitable habitat during the summer months.

Avocets increased at Blacktoft Sands whilst more Curlews were reported this year which may, however, be as a result of a concentrated survey of a large part of the Pennine area. Dotterels were present, in suitable habitat, during the breeding season at one location.

Black-headed Gulls continue to increase, particularly along the Lower Derwent Valley NNR but Kittiwake numbers decreased both at Flamborough and Scarborough. Little Terns, at the Easington colony, continued to increase though, as in previous years, the success rate was low due to predation, again by a Merlin. All species of auk at Flamborough showed an increase.

Barn Owls appear to be increasing particularly in the east where the provision of nest boxes is now more than counter-acting the destruction of natural habitats. Nightjars would, by all accounts, appear to be increasing, especially in areas of the North Yorkshire Moors forest though again details of numbers were not forthcoming. A slight increase in the numbers of Bearded Tits was noted at Blacktoft Sands whilst indications may show a slight increase in Reed Warbler population along the northern fringes of its' range.

Breeding details received for many species of passerine were rather non-committal with the result that trends were not able to be fully detailed. However, Redpoll and Twite would both appear to be down with many other species showing declines in some areas to be counter-balanced by an increase in others.

To deal now with non-breeding birds, 1993, in common with previous years, produced record counts of some species; paucity in others and better than usual representations from some families. White-billed Diver was once more reported, having become almost annual in occurrence in recent years whilst Red-throated Diver was seen in record numbers off Flamborough. Great, Cory's and Little Shearwaters were all recorded whilst a 'dark-rumped' Storm Petrel was seen off Spurn in July. More Bitterns were reported than for many years, including an unprecedented influx into the Barnsley/Wakefield area in December. Other members of the heron tribe were also well represented.

The influx of White-fronted Geese into the east of England was also well represented in Yorkshire, culminating in record numbers for the county at Wheldrake Ings during early March. The two 'feral' geese, Grey Lag and Canada, still increase and continue to colonise new areas, the former at a faster rate than the latter, particularly in the east.

Ducks, generally, were unobtrusive with the exception of Gadwall and Ruddy Duck, both being reported in record numbers whilst of the rarer species, only American Wigeon and Ring-necked Duck put in appearances. Mandarin continues to both increase in numbers and spread whilst more than usual Red-crested Pochard were reported though the origin of these latter birds must always be of doubt.

Generally speaking, all species of birds of prey showed a healthy position with increased occurrences of most species, being reflected, in many cases, with increased breeding numbers.

Common Cranes were more numerous than of late and taking into account the prevailing weather conditions and other species reported at the time, the occurrence of the Demoiselle Crane at Spurn could have involved a wild bird.

Scarce waders were represented by Black-winged Stilt; Kentish Plover; 'Lesser' Golden Plover; White-rumped Sandpiper; Pectoral Sandpiper; Broad-billed Sandpiper; Great Snipe and both phalaropes. Laughing, Ring-billed and Ross's Gulls were recorded whilst Mediterranean Gull was reported in increased numbers. Scarce terns to be recorded included Caspian; White-winged Black and the Farn Islands' Lesser Crested. This last bird now having been reported in two of the last three years. Little Auks were extremely scarce representing one of the worst years ever.

Of the scarcer, rather than rare, 'passerines', Wryneck and Bluethroat were present during the spring in good numbers with Wheatears and Pied Flycatchers also reflecting this trend. The autumn produced records of ten species of scarce or rare warblers; some of the scarcer, notably Icterine, Barred and Yellow-browed being quite widespread with one of the individuals of the last species being attributed to the race *humei*. Three of the rare pipits; Richard's, Red-throated and Olive-backed were seen in autumn.

In general, finches and buntings were inconspicuous though Siskin was reported in record numbers during the autumn passage at both Spurn and Flamborough whilst numbers of Lapland Buntings reached record proportions at Flamborough with several other locations reporting their largest counts ever, or, for many years.

May I, on behalf of the Reports Committee, express gratitude to local recorders and the very many individuals throughout Yorkshire who have submitted records to the YNU. As Editor, may I also extend my thanks for the assistance given by the VC Recorders in the compilation of this Report and in particular to the Secretary, P.J. Dunn for transferring the manuscript to disc. Finally, the lateness of this Report is entirely to be laid at the door of the Editor who apologises to all. Photograph on front cover is a Grasshopper Warbler at Filey by Ian Robinson and sketches by Yuri Gabrilovich and Peter Dunn.

Bill Curtis, March 1996

CLASSIFIED LIST

All rare and unusual species in this Report have been considered by the Reports Committee and, unless otherwise specified, found acceptable on the written evidence supplied by the observers. Where applicable, records have been accepted by the *British Birds Rarities Committee* (BBRC) unless otherwise stated. The sequence and nomenclature used is that of Voous K. H., *List of Recent Holarctic Bird Species* (1973 and 1977) B.O.U. 1977.

Red-throated Diver *Gavia stellata*

Recorded in all months along the coast with peak counts of 120 at Spurn on 21st March; Flamborough with 103 on 26th January; 160 on 30th then 108 on 7th February; 116 on 26th September; 211 on 12th December and 612 on 14th; this last total being a County record. 230 off Grimston on 31st January and 128 at Filey on 26th December.

Occasionally single birds along the Humber at Sunk Island whilst from freshwater locations; five flying north along the River Derwent on 26th November were unusual. The only other inland record being of a single bird at Southfield Res. from 16th to 22nd June.

**Black-throated Diver** *Gavia arctica*

Reported from coastal locations between January and April and from August to December mostly one or two birds on each occasion but three at Long Nab on 23rd October; four at Flamborough on 2nd October and 13th November; five on 14th December; six on 30th January and eight on 31st. One at Sunk Island on 14th November. No freshwater records.

Great Northern Diver *Gavia immer*

Single birds at several coastal locations during both winter periods but also at Flamborough on 8th May and 16th June and at Spurn on 2nd May. Two also at Filey on 30th January were joined by a third individual the following day. Two at Flamborough on 13th October with three there on 13th November. One on the Humber at Sunk Island on 11th December.

One, an adult, at Winterset Res. on 15th and 16th November was undoubtedly the same bird that was present at Fairburn Ings from 18th to 26th. A juvenile at Underbank Res. from 28th November to 7th December moving to Morehall Res. by the 10th and remaining there until the year end. An immature bird at Scorton Quarry from 23rd December also to the year end.

White-billed Diver *Gavia adamsii*

A single bird in Filey Bay from 21st to 26th March (SC: PJD: CCT et al)

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

Bred in VC61 at Filey Dams (three pairs with ten young); Hunmanby (two pairs); Scampston Lake (two pairs); and the Lower Derwent Valley NNR (16 pairs). Only reported breeding from Wykeham Carr, in VC62, whilst no comments were received from VC63. 33 pairs in VC64 where success was generally reported as low. Bred at Bolton-on-Swale; Scorton Quarry; Pallet Hill; Kirby Fleetham and West Tanfield, in VC65.

Largest gatherings reported being 22 at Pulfen Bog in early November; 20+ at Mickletown Ings on 5th September; 14 at Swillington Ings in September and 13 at Bolton-on Swale on 11th September.

Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*

Definitely under recorded in VC61 where the only breeding noted concerned two pairs at Pulfen Bog and a pair at Tophill Low NR. In VC62; three pairs at Castle Howard; three at Seamer Road Mere (Scarborough) and two pairs at Wykeham. No comments or data from VC63 but 60 pairs breeding in VC64 of which 15 were at Fairburn Ings; success reported as mixed. Eight pairs bred in VC65 with varying success (no young at two locations but 12 young from three pairs at Scorton Quarry).

Largest gatherings on freshwater were 32 at Fairburn Ings on 23rd April; 27 at Swillington Ings on 7th May and 23 at Nosterfield in July.

No counts of winter coastal flocks in the Bridlington Bay area but 51 in Filey Bay on 30th January was a record count for that location.

Red-necked Grebe *Podiceps grisegena*

Inland, birds were reported from Harewood Park on 4th April; Swillington Ings on 16th and 17th May; Tophill Low NR from 13th to 20th July; Scammonden Res. on 28th September; Blackmoorfoot Res. on 29th then at Scammonden again from 6th to 8th October. One on the Lower Derwent NNR on 30th November.

Singles occasionally noted along the coast at Filey; Flamborough; Hornsea; Easington and near Whitby during the periods January - May and July - December. In addition, two at Flamborough on 7th March with three there on 28th August whilst two flew north off Scarborough on 12th October.

Slavonian Grebe *Podiceps auritus*

Singles on the coast at Flamborough on 17th January and 26th August and at Filey on 27th November. Reported from freshwater locations slightly more frequently with singles at Hornsea Mere on 22nd August; York University Lake on 17th January; the Lower Derwent NNR on 30th November; Angler's C.P. on 4th April; Eccup Res. on 5th April (full breeding plumage) and at Fairburn Ings from 6th to 13th April (moulting into breeding plumage).

Black-necked Grebe *Podiceps nigricollis*

Bred at the Lower Derwent NNR for the second successive year. Six individuals were present on 30th March; two pairs present during April with a further two or three males seen. It was considered that by early May five pairs were breeding, the first young reported on 18th with six young from three pairs by the end of the month. These young were all thought to have fledged - the other two pairs failing during incubation. The last birds were reported on 28th June. During the autumn a single bird was recorded there from 17th to 19th November.

Elsewhere, one in breeding plumage at Fairburn Ings on 27th and 29th May with one there also on 1st October. Also, in VC64, one at Farnham G.P. on 10th April; three at Swillington Ings on 21st September with another on 2nd October. One in breeding plumage at Stapleton, VC65, on 29th April with a juvenile there on 13th September; a juvenile at Cleasby on 21st September. The only record from VC62 was of a bird picked up in a Scarborough street on 31st December being released a few days later.

Except for the Lower Derwent, birds were reported from VC61 at Hornsea Mere from 7th to 9th March; 10th, 11th and 17th April with two there on 8th July and a single from 5th to 12th December. A pair were displaying at Tophill Low NR on 8th June whilst one was present from 8th July to 16th August.

Two at Elsecar Res., VC63 on 15th May with one at Old Denaby on 2nd June; juvenile at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 29th August; three at Edderthorpe Flash on 20th September and two (adult with juvenile) at Midhope Res. on 25th.

The only occurrence away from freshwater was of a single in Filey Bay from 6th to 8th January.

Fulmar *Fulmarus glacialis*

"Little change, perhaps a slight increase" (Bempton) was the only comment received on breeding status. Birds were noted in May/June from the Sutton Bank/Roulston Scar areas and may have bred.

Common along the coast, particularly at Flamborough, where daily totals were invariably large, the maxima being 2,818 on 7th February with 4,100 on 27th and 3,162 on 28th. 4,330 on 4th September with 12,260 the following day. Daily totals elsewhere were generally less than 1,000 but 5,400 flew north at Whitestone Point on 24th August.

'Blue-phase' birds were widely reported, albeit usually one to three, but 25 at Flamborough on 31st January; 19 on 7th February and eight on 26th December.

Occasionally reported from the Humber at Sunk Island with six on 1st August as maxima.

Notwithstanding the Sutton Bank records, birds were reported inland from the Lower Derwent Valley NNR on 26th May and 25th November; from Skibeden Quarry on 19th April; Angler's C.P. on 31st May and 6th September; Salendine Nook (Huddersfield) on 28th May.

Cory's Shearwater *Calonectris diomedea*

One north at Filey on the unusual date of 13th January (AB: PJD). Singles were also recorded there on 17th (LG: KS) and 24th August (REH: TL: AN et al). Flamborough reported birds on 30th July; 8th, 11th, 12th 15th, 23rd and 28th August with two on 16th (PAL: BR: PJW: MN et al)

Great Shearwater *Puffinus gravis*

Single north at Flamborough on 4th September (PAL et al)

Sooty Shearwater *Puffinus griseus*

Several unseasonal records with singles at Filey on 21st January; Flamborough on 26th January and Spurn on 21st February. Next were at Flamborough on 17th July and Hornsea on 27th then quite regular along the coast from the third week of August with 63 at Flamborough on 31st. Almost daily in September with 202 at Flamborough on 5th when 26 passed Spurn; 56 at the latter on 26th whilst the 27th saw 75 at Spurn; 21 at Holmpton; 966 at Flamborough (second highest daily count for Yorkshire) and 433 at Filey. Quite frequent during the first half of October when 14 passed Spurn on 12th with 38 at Scarborough; 27 at Flamborough on 13th; eight at both Spurn and Filey on 21st when seven were off Long Nab; seven at Spurn on 22nd. Singles were recorded on four days at Flamborough from then until the last on 11th December.

One along the Humber at Sunk Island on 28th March.

Manx Shearwater *Puffinus puffinus*

Another rather poor year with single birds occasionally at Flamborough and Filey during the early months though, at the latter, six on 26th January. Few until July when 88 passed Flamborough on 11th; 81 there on 29th August then 123 on 5th September when 50 were reported roosting in Bridlington Bay. Maximum at Filey was 60 on 24th August whilst Spurn, Hornsea and Scarborough all recorded only small numbers.

Mediterranean Shearwater *Puffinus yelkouan*

A good year; 29 at Flamborough on 16 days in August with four on 31st. 11 at Hornsea on 30th (TDC et al); four on three days at Filey. In September single at Spurn on 4th when two were recorded off Flamborough and one at Long Nab; three at Flamborough on 5th and one at Spurn on 7th. Finally one at Filey on 12th October.

Little Shearwater *Puffinus assimilis*

One north at Flamborough on 28th August (PAL: DB: BH et al) is still under consideration by BBRC.

Storm Petrel *Hydrobates pelagicus*

Tape-luring attracted birds to several locations. Spurn had three on 20th July; one on 24th and three on 28th; a total of 31 were trapped at Flamborough whilst 71 were trapped and ringed at Filey. In addition to the above, one at Spurn on 21st October singles at Flamborough on 9th August, 4th September, 23rd October (eaten by gulls) and 28th November with two on 28th September. One at Filey on 13th September with two at Scarborough on the same day.

Leach's Storm Petrel *Oceanodroma leucorhoa*

One at Flamborough on 4th September with two on 5th then one on 13th, when one was also off Long Nab and five flew south at Scarborough. One south at Long Nab on 14th with three that day at Filey. In October, singles at Spurn on 12th; Flamborough on 13th and Hornsea on 21st.

A "dark-rumped" Storm Petrel, described as an "all dark" Leach's Petrel flew south at Spurn on evening of 27th July.

Gannet *Morus bassana*

The breeding population at Bempton showed an 11% increase to 1,510 occupied nests with an estimated 1,100 young fledged.

Peaks at Flamborough were 1,038 on 24th January (a little high for that time of year) then 2,100 on 24th July; 2,660 on 15th August and 2,240 on 4th September. Up to 275 in Filey Bay during January due to exceptional feeding conditions whilst peaks there were 860 on 1st September with 1,395 on 8th. 500 on 5th September was the peak count for Spurn with smaller numbers at other coastal locations. Fairly regularly along the Humber at Sunk Island, particularly during late September, with a maximum of 18 on 14th August.

Inland; in VC63; singles at Balby on 2nd May; Pugney's C.P. on 13th September; Cawthorne on 22nd and Broomhill Ings on 15th October whilst two flew over Kildwick on 16th November. In VC64; one at Farnham G.P. on 14th September; three over Green Hammerton on 23rd October and one picked up at Austwick Moss on 11th December but died later that day.

Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*

25 nests on the north cliffs at Filey produced 19 young.

At Spurn 64 flew south on 24th January with 60 on 1st February. The largest numbers further north were 81 at Flamborough on 29th August with 75 on 4th September whilst 35 were at Filey on 17th October.

Quite widespread inland; in VC61; up to 30 in April along the Lower Derwent Valley NNR with up to 60 there in November and 29 in December. 18 at Tophill Low NR during March with 39 in September whilst Pulfen Bog had 23 in April. Seven at Burton Riggs (VC62) on 11th May was a record count there. No comments were received from VC63 but numbers in VC64 continued to increase; being reported from more than 30 locations with 64 at Fairburn Ings in late October; 37 at Swillington Ings in November and 38 in December. 21 at a small farm pond near Garforth on 9th November. Good numbers also in VC65 with maxima at Bolton-on-Swale of 32 on 2nd January, 41 on 5th March and 40 on 2nd December; 18 at Thornton Steward on 7th February.

Individuals showing the characteristics of the continental race *P.c.sinensis* were quite widespread with maximum of six at Tophill Low NR in March. Individuals colour-ringed at Abberton Res., Essex, were again recorded at Tophill Low NR.

Shag *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*

No comments received concerning breeding numbers.

Exceptionally large numbers were reported during January from Filey Bay peaking at 670 on 31st (c.f. Gannet). Peaks at Flamborough were 410 on 1st January with 565 on 23rd and 404 on 20th February. 319 there on 28th December whilst 133 flew north at Filey on 22nd October.

An influx into VC63 was noted in February with singles at Blacktoft Sands on 31st January/1st February; Damsflask Res. from 2nd to 9th; Elland G.P. on 4th; Ingbirchworth Res. on 6th; the Leeds to Liverpool Canal near Bradford from 7th to 9th thence on the River Aire near Baildon until 14th March; near Thorne on 20th February and ten were at Southfield Res. on 3rd February.

In VC64; one at Knotford Nook on 4th February with singles at Fairburn Ings from 14th to 25th whilst 11 were present there on 1st March with five remaining the following day.

Singles near Huddersfield on 17th June; Fairburn Ings on 15th July; Pool Paper Mill on 21st October and Bolton-on-Swale on 2nd December.

Bittern *Botaurus stellaris*

Singles occasionally at Hornsea Mere during January/February and November/December. One at the Lower Derwent Valley NNR from 13th to 19th January, 25th February, 7th March and 7th May. An unusual record of one feeding on a farmhouse lawn near Kilpin Hall on 5th June.

In VC63; two at Pugney's C.P. during January-March; one at Potteric Carr from 1992 until 10th February; one at Blacktoft Sands on 13th February with the remains of one (killed by fox) at Bolehill Flash on 8th February. An influx during December with two at Pugney's C.P. on 2nd then three on 29th; two at Angler's C.P. on 2nd with six on 26th and five on 31st.

One, very infrequently, at Fairburn Ings in January and again occasionally in December. Singles at Ledston from 7th to 13th December and High Batts NR on 17th December.

Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax*

One at Fairburn Ings on 31st October (RS). An adult at Nunnington, VC61, on 5th June (DT).

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*

One at Spurn on 10th September was seen later that day at Easington then again at Spurn on 11th and presumably this bird again at Spurn on 18th. The first record for the Observatory.

Great White Egret *Egretta alba*

Single at Hutton Magna on 16th May (GDM) was seen again near Aldborough St. John on 18th, remaining in the vicinity until 22nd.

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*

Bred in VC61 at Scampston (nine nests) and along the Lower Derwent valley (20 nests). In VC62; at Sleightholmedale (13); Hutton Rudby (19) and Ellerburn (16). No details from VC63 whilst fewer locations were counted in VC64 but 29 nests at Askwith; 15 at Bishop Monkton; 15 at North Stainley and at least 15 near Tadcaster. Breeding occurred in VC65 at Kirkby Fleetham and may have done so in Arkengarthdale.

Largest gatherings reported were 35 at Westwick Farm, VC64, in January; 21 at both Lindley Trout farm on 7th April and Leventhorpe Ash Ponds on 6th July whilst 25 were at Fairburn Ings on 29th October.

Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea*

One at Tophill Low NR on 1st May (FAW).

Addition to the 1990 Report: One at Broomfleet Ponds on 8th June (TAE)

Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia*

An adult at Lindley Wood Res. on 24th April (KAC). Two birds, an adult with an immature, at Flamborough on 14th May left to the south and were then reported from Beacon Ponds (Easington) on both 14th and 15th thence later on 15th at Cherry Cob Sands when they were seen to leave high to the north-west.

Black Stork *Ciconia nigra*

Three flew over Broomfleet Ponds on 7th July (TAE). Still under consideration by BBRC.

Mute Swan *Cygnus olor*

Breeding numbers at the Lower Derwent Valley NNR continue to prosper with ten pairs fledging 43 young. Only a further six pairs were reported breeding in VC61 (not a true reflection?). No details from VC62. 30+ pairs bred in VC63 with 11 successful pairs rearing 44 young in the Bamsley area. Expanding range and increasing in numbers in VC64 particularly around Harrogate. A total of 27 successful pairs raised at least 93 young. Three pairs in VC65 reared 11 young.

Large gatherings recorded were; 287 at Hornsea Mere on 8th August (a location record); 219 at Fairburn Ings on 27th August; 72 at Tophill Low NR on 9th October and 57 at Pugney's C.P. on

13th November. 100 birds were released during the year at the Rother Valley C.P. by the National Swan Sanctuary.

Bewick's Swan *Cygnus columbianus*

Quite scarce apart from the Lower Derwent Valley NNR where up to 52 were present in January and 47 in February though very few remained into March. Elsewhere; 22 at Watersheddes Res. on 30th January and 15 at Southfield Res. on 3rd, otherwise up to five at a few locations.

The first of the autumn were five at Spurn on 16th October with small numbers at several locations during October and November. Higher counts were 24 north at Silkstone Common on 26th October; 11 at Royd Moor Res. on 16th November. Apart from 15 flying south over the Lower Derwent Valley NNR on 6th November, few were reported from that location.

Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus*

Up to 61 were on the Lower Derwent Valley NNR during January; 60 in February and 45 in early March then five on 3rd April with one from 24th to 7th May. Numbers at Fairburn Ings peaked at 53 in January; 66 in February; up to 50 in early March with 20 on 5th April. The wintering herd at Broomhill Ings peaked at 29 on 8th January and at Bolton-on-Swale; 50 on 6th January (highest ever count for that location) then 48 on 24th January decreasing to 39 by mid February to early March. 40 at Birkin on 17th January were part of the Fairburn herd. Spring passage was noted from several locations with 63 over Elland G.P. on 26th March; 62 at Boshaw Dams also on the 26th March; 42 at Staveley on 28th March and 27 north at Blacktoft Sands on 9th April.

During the latter months numbers at the Lower Derwent Valley NNR were low with peaks of 12 on 18th November then 16 by 30th with 22 present by the end of the year. The first bird appeared at Fairburn Ings on 21st October thereafter numbers increased to 20 by 28th November then 40 on 9th December and 49 by 28th. Peaks at Bolton-on-Swale were 35 on 14th November with 37 on 17th December (only one juvenile). Passage during these latter months was slight with, in November, 12 west at Blacktoft Sands on 1st; 28 west there on 7th and 21 west on 12th.

Bean Goose *Anser fabalis*

Quite widespread in small numbers. Two at Spurn on 26th January with one on 15th February followed by a further two that same day. Four at Grimston on 17th February. Seven which arrived at Filey on 18th February were most likely the same seven that were reported flying inland at Kettleness on 16th. These seven remained at Filey until 23rd with an additional six there on 20th. Five at Roos from 20th to 28th February but nine present on 27th. Two at Burniston on 31st January; two at Cromer Point on 17th/18th February with seven at Cayton Carrs from 21st to 28th (no doubt some of the records involved the same wandering individuals). Further west, two at Blacktoft Sands on 16th February with five at Ringstone Edge Res. on 16th/17th.

Lesser numbers during the latter months with one at the Lower Derwent Valley NNR on 9th November and three the following day. Three at Tophill Low NR on 5th December; four on 14th then seven by 28th and ten from 29th to years' end.

One at Flamborough from 17th to 23rd February and seven of those at Tophill Low NR in December were considered to belong to the race *A. f. rossicus*.

Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus*

The regular passage of birds between Lancashire and Norfolk was noted on many occasions with peak counts of 1,023, south-east, over Strines Top on 11th November; 900, south-east, over Thrybergh C.P. on 10th October. Skeins were also reported from many locations varying from 50 to 150 but 490 west at Sunk Island on 3rd January on which date 423 flew west over Fairburn Ings with 200+ over Timble Ings; 250 over Great Preston; 250 over Blaze field; 155 over Leventhorpe and 270 over Hampsthwaite. 220 north over Blacktoft Sands on 29th January with 236 north there on 7th March.

First of the autumn were 11 at Spurn on 24th September with widespread occurrences from late October though numbers were far smaller than during the early months.

White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons*

An unprecedented influx into the county from mid February with the first being three at Scout Dyke Res. on 13th then singles at Flamborough and Cromer Point with three at Filey on 14th. By the 15th, 11 were reported from the Ingbrichworth area; 18 at Broomhill Ings; 39 north over Spurn being seen also at Easington and 26 at Filey. On 16th; 11 to 15 were at Ringstone Edge Res. (remaining until 19th); 19 at Cromer Point and seven at Ruswarp. 109 at Grimston on 17th when 31 were reported from Tophill Low NR; 22 at Cromer Point; 14 at Blacktoft Sands (remaining until 21st with five until 23rd); five at Rother Valley C.P.; six at Southfield Res. and three at Blackmoorfoot Res.. 24 at Cromer Point on 18th with 139 at Roos on 19th when seven were at Ellerby Moor. 95 at Spurn on 20th (remaining until 21st); 16 at Robin Hood's Bay (also remaining until 21st) with 12 at Hay-a-Park and 77 at Rimswell. 17 at Staveley NR on 22nd whilst the flock at Spurn had decreased to 93 (remaining until 4th March). On 23rd, 19 flew north over Whitby with 20 at Scalby whilst 80 flew west over Ingbrichworth Res.. 21 at Staveley NR on 26th with 95 at Roos on 27th and 18 at Givendale on 28th.

Many recorded from Lower Derwent Valley NNR where 86 flew in, mainly in small parties, on 16th February; 81 present on 17th; 76 on 18th; 92 on 23rd; 79 on 25th and 80 on 27th. 113 were reported on 1st March with 201 on 2nd and 347 on 5th (the largest count for Yorkshire) thereafter a rapid decline to mid month. Coincidental with this decline were 118 at Brough Haven on 7th when 56 flew south over the Humber Wildfowl Refuge. 112 visited Homsea Mere on 4th with 64 the following day, the only flocks from that location.

One over Farnham G.P. and eight over Knaresborough on 28th August were probably feral birds otherwise the first of the autumn was a single at Spurn on 24th September then ten near Easington from 21st to 24th October. On 7th November ten were recorded at Skeffling with five at Easington; nine south at Grimston and 28th on Keyingham Marsh. 19 at Tophill Low NR on 17th whilst 130 flew south at Grimston on 4th December with 17 at Skeffling on 15th. Three at the Lower Derwent Valley NNR on 22nd October then five on 9th November; three or four infrequently to the 12th then ten to 30th; 12 on 1st December and nine on 28th.

One at Bolton-on-Swale from 21st February to 1st March was of the Greenland race *A. s. flavirostris*.

Lesser White-fronted Goose *Anser erythropus*

A "sub-adult" at Homsea Mere from 1st July to 6th August was joined by an adult on the last date (published with the escape proviso).

Grey Lag Goose *Anser anser*

Continues to spread and increase dramatically in the Harrogate area. Many areas are now reporting flocks/gatherings of 400+. Larger gatherings were 650 at Tophill Low NR in December; 820 at the Lower Derwent Valley NNR in November; 443 at Castle Howard in January; 510 at Farnham G.P. in October; 550 at Hay-a-Park in October; 612 at Bishop Monkton Ings on 4th October; 500 at Masham G.P. on 7th November; 1,292 at Bolton-on-Swale on 27th December; 445 at Stapleford on 5th September and 810 at Nosterfield in August. Doubtless there is some inter-change of flocks with locations.

Snow Goose *Anser caerulescens*

Undoubtedly all of feral origin. Up to eight frequented the lowland G.P. near Harrogate throughout the year. Two adults with a Barnacle Goose and seven hybrid immatures noted at three locations from 7th August to October.

Blue-phased birds were reported from Scorton Quarry on 1st January and the Lower Derwent Valley NNR on 21st February.

Canada Goose *Branta canadensis*

Still increasing and spreading in some areas but in parts of VC64 numbers decreased as a result of a programme of sterilisation and culling. Few comments concerning actual breeding numbers but at least 60 pairs in VC63 with 20 broods along the Lower Derwent and 21 at Fairburn Ings.

Large counts reported were 780 at the Lower Derwent Valley NNR in November; 630 at Fairburn Ings in June; 456 at Nosterfield in August; 474 at Farnham G.P. in October and 520 at Eccup Res. in September.

Barnacle Goose *Branta leucopsis*

Quite widespread though genuine wild birds difficult to establish. 16 arrived at Bolton-on-Swale on 27th January of which three had been ringed at Spitzbergen in 1986 (also reported from Caerlaverock in October 1992). Other parties which were most likely of wild birds were 21 at Flamborough from 17th to 26th February with 20 remaining until 28th; five at Beacon Ponds, Easington from 27th to 31st January; six south at Filey on 13th February; six at Blacktoft Sands on 19th September with four there on 8th October and four again on 25th November. One to five birds were recorded at many locations, frequently during the summer months whilst larger gatherings were 18 at Blacktoft Sands on 2nd May with 11 there on 12th; 30 to 40 in the free flying flock from York University including at least three broods of young, whilst the 'wintering' flock at Hornsea Mere peaked at 178 on 21st November.

Brent Goose *Branta bernicla*

The Spurn flock reached a maximum of 301 in January with some of these birds regularly visiting Beacon Ponds, Easington. During the latter months this flock peaked at 440. Coastal passage poor at both Filey and Flamborough whilst the only significant movements at Spurn were 120 to the east on 16th March and 128 south on 30th September.

Small numbers strayed along the Humber quite frequently to Sunk Island and occasionally to Blacktoft Sands where 12 were present to 13th February, 11 on 3rd November and 20 on 19th December.

Inland, one or two occasionally at 14 locations but four at Pugney's C.P. from 2nd to 10th November.

Birds of the pale-breasted form, *B. b. hrota* were at Spurn on 26th September (two) and 27th November; Flamborough; three on 28th August; two (Spurn birds?) on 26th September; single on 10th October with two on 22nd October and four on 14th December. A single at Bolton-on-Swale from 27th to 31st December.

Egyptian Goose *Alopochen aegyptiacus*

Two at Castle Howard from 5th to 10th July with a single bird at Pugney's C.P. on 31st July then frequently there during August and September.

Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea*

A female at Eccup Res. on 13th March; one at Spurn with Shelducks on 30th June; two at Wykeham Carr on 14th also being reported that same day at Filey Dams. Two at Faxfleet on 13th and 14th August whilst seven (six males) were at Fairburn Ings on 7th December.

All are published with the escape proviso.

Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*

Few comments concerning breeding in VC61 excepting four pairs at Tophill Low NR and 45+ pairs at the Lower Derwent Valley NNR. No comments from VC62 or VC63. In VC64 bred at six locations rearing at least 60 young and attempted to breed at a further three. Some 48 young were reared at three locations in VC65.

Small numbers along the Humber during the early months then 3,784 at Sunk Island on 24th July; 3,100 during August falling to 500 in September then 150 in December. Up to 1,600 at Whitton Sands in August/September though occasionally up to 1,300 in November. 750 at Easington on 29th October.

Easterly movement at Spurn peaked at 204 on 30th June and 326 on 16th July. Only small counts along the coast.

Inland; 68 flew east over Swillington Ings on 12th January with 30+ there from late February into spring. 26 at Masham G.P. in May.

Mandarin Duck *Aix galericulata*

Becoming more widespread.

Seven at Broomhead Res. (four males, three females) on 14th January remained until 13th March with a fifth male also being present on 8th February. Two males at Cloughton on 25th April; two males at the Lower Derwent Valley NNR on 12th September and 28th October with two at Blacktoft Sands on 9th/10th November. Single males at Beacon Ponds on 2nd February; Lower Derwent Valley NNR on 18th April; Sprotborough Flash on 13th April, 26th October and 3rd/4th November; Hayfield Lake on 30th January; Myrtle Park, Bingley on 31st January; Crossflats from February to the years' end; Cottingley on 6th March; Bretton Park on 4th April; Morehall Res. from 26th September to the years' end; Shipley Canal Wharfe on 26th October and 4th November; Sandbeds on 1st December; Pottenc Carr on 5th December and one shot at Finningley on 16th December.

Females were at Sprotborough Flash on 24th January; Netherwood Marsh on 8th January, 10th October and 2nd December; Crossflats from February to the years' end and at Holmfirth on 13th November and 31st December.

Wigeon *Anas penelope*

Bred at Grimworth Res. where two broods of four and eight were seen on 26th May with two broods of three each on 24th July (uncertain whether four broods in total). Nest with eight eggs found on Grassington Moor. Probably six pairs bred along the Lower Derwent valley though only one brood of young seen, whilst in VC65, probable breeding occurred at Summer Lodge Tarn (ten pairs) and Locker Tarn (five pairs).

Widespread during both winters with very large numbers at the Lower Derwent Valley NNR where monthly maxima were: 6,450 in January; 6,500 in February; 7,500 in March; 1,200 in October; 6,000 in November and 9,000 in December. Tophill Low NR held 2,100 on 17th February with up to 1,200 in November and 1,500 in December. Bolton-on-Swale, VC65, recorded 1,295 on 6th January; 1,921 on 1st March with 1,680 on 19th December whilst Hornsea Mere, VC61, had 1,003 on 12th December. Few counts reported from the Humber but Whitton Sands held 2,100 on 14th February with 1,500 on 14th March and generally 1,200 to 1,750 from mid September to the year end.

Good coastal passage reported with peak counts of 391 off Spurn on 29th September and 249 the following day with 159 on 1st October. 107 passed Filey on the latter date. 708 at Flamborough (a record count there) on 2nd October with 146 that day at Spurn. 110 seen at Spurn on 25th September when 990 passed west up the Humber at Sunk Island with 552 west there on 15th October. Large numbers reported from the Scarborough area in December with 137 in Jackson's Bay on 2nd; 150 at Cromer Point on 10th and 180 at Scalby Mills on 16th.

American Wigeon *Anas americana*

An adult male at Flamborough on 22nd and 23rd May (DB: PAL: BE: PJW et al).

An eclipse male at Tophill Low NR from 11th to 16th September (JB: RL et al).

Gadwall *Anas strepera*

Bred in VC61 at Tophill Low NR (one pair) with at least 15 pairs at the Lower Derwent Valley NNR. No comment from VC63 whilst in VC64, nine pairs, seven successfully fledging 19 young at Fairburn Ings with four at Swillington Ings. One young at Swillington Park and six young at Mickletown Ings.

Continues to spread and increase in numbers with maxima at favoured waters being: Hornsea Mere, January 110; February 156; October 227; November 338 (a record count for Yorkshire) and 302 in December. Tophill Low NR had 193 in September then 95 in October and 52 in December. Peaks at Fairburn Ings were low with 108 on 26th August up to 110 in September then few in October. 128 on 14th November and between 80 and 120 in December. These counts were eclipsed by nearby Swillington Ings where maxima were 165 in September; 190 in October; 159 in November and 94 in December. Increased numbers were reported from Farnham G.P. where up to 38 were present in February; 29 in March; 26 in October; 20 in November and 34 in December. Still very scarce in VC65.

Teal *Anas crecca*

The only breeding reported from VC61 was at the Lower Derwent Valley NNR where some 30 pairs were present. Not reported breeding from VC62 whilst in VC63, 34 pairs recorded at 14 locations within the Barnsley/Doncaster areas with eight at Potteric Carr and seven at Broomhill Ings. No proven breeding in VC64 though pairs were present during the summer at Fairburn Ings, Swillington/Leventhorpe, Grassington Moor and the River Ure north of Ripon. Two pairs at Summer Lodge Tarn, VC65.

Widespread and quite common during the winter months, maxima were c4,132 at the Lower Derwent Valley NNR in January with 3,000 in February; 200 in March; 2,300 in November and 4,350 in December. 940 at Tophill Low NR in September, 908 at Hornsea Mere in December with up to 1,200 at the Humber Wildfowl Refuge from mid September to mid October. In VC64, 539 at Eccup Res. in October whilst Fairburn Ings had a peak of 346 in late December. 398 at Bolton-on-Swale, VC65, on 19th December.

Normal coastal passage with 173 south at Spurn on 29th September and 115 the following day. 172 off Flamborough on 2nd October, 118 in Jackson's Bay on 30th November whilst up to 119 were at Filey in December. 218 passed west along the Humber at Sunk Island on 28th August.

A male of the North American race *A. c. carolinensis* was present at Potteric Carr from 26th to 31st January with another (or the same) on 23rd October (LJD: TR).

Addition: To the 1990 Report, a male of the North American race *A. c. carolinensis* was present at Hornsea Mere from 7th April to 5th May (TDC et al).

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*

Winter number again low in VC65 with a peak of 642 at Bolton-on-Swale in December. Poor breeding season in VC64 owing to weather with also a decline in winter numbers being reported in that VC, the largest counts being 920 at Fairburn Ings in January, 650 at Leighton Res. in December and 550 at Eccup Res. in August. Maxima in VC61 were 3,100 at the Lower Derwent Valley NNR in January with 2,500 during February and March then 3,100 in November and 4,000 in December. 2,000 at Tophill Low NR in January with between 1,000 and 1,400 from October to December.

Pintail *Anas acuta*

One pair bred at the Lower Derwent Valley NNR where five young were seen on 23rd May whilst a second pair probably bred. A pair reported displaying and mating at Scorton Quarry up to 1st June but no further evidence of breeding.

Up to 30 occasionally at the Humber Wildfowl Refuge but 110 on 29th September; 50 on 10th and 250 on 22nd October. 45 were at Beacon Ponds, Easington on 17th February. Peak counts at the Lower Derwent Valley NNR were 80 during January with 47 in December.

Coastal passage was sporadic with 11 south at Spurn on 29th September; 21 on 1st October and 15 on 9th November whilst 18 came in from the east there on 30th September. 67 flew west up the Humber at Sunk Island on 2nd October whilst at Blacktoft Sands westerly passage was noted with 22 on 29th August; 23 on 30th and 47 on 9th September. Up to 47 were present on the reserve during September with up to 22 in October. 23 at Wombwell Ings on 27th February; 22 at Swillington Park, VC64 on 12th February with 31 in that area the following day. 14 at Gallaber between 5th and 12th March.

Garganey *Anas querquedula*

A record year. An estimated ten pairs attempted to breed at the Lower Derwent Valley NNR with four broods being seen; three pairs present at Fairburn Ings, two of which hatched 16 young; ten being fledged whilst a third brood was seen but may have been one of the earlier two. A pair and ten young seen at Broomhill Ings in June whilst two females with 19 juveniles were present on 19th August. A pair with young seen at Stanley Ferry Flash.

The first recorded were a pair at Broomhill Ings on 12th March; five at Askern Lake on 21st March and a pair at Fairburn Ings on 27th. One or two birds were recorded during the summer from many locations with larger counts, not including breeding locations, of up to four males at Tophill Low

NR between 10th May and 18th June; two or three juveniles there from 26th July to 24th September with six on 14th August. Three at Blacktoft Sands between 12th and 27th May.

A female/immature remained at Angler's C.P. from 3rd October to the end of the year.

Shoveler *Anas clypeata*

It was estimated that 145 pairs bred along the Lower Derwent valley though no comments were received as to the success - an outstanding number.

No other confirmed breeding records from VC61; none from VC62 whilst in VC63, 13 pairs bred in the Bamsley/Doncaster area. Excepting Fairburn Ings, where eight pairs bred (hatching 56 young but only 19 fledging), only single pairs were reported at Leventhorpe Hall Pond and near Lemonroyd. Did not breed in VC65.

The largest gatherings in winter were 251 in November at the Lower Derwent Valley NNR; 198 at Tophill Low NR on 14th September with 164 in October; 153 at Fairburn Ings on 3rd October with nearby Swillington Ings recording 103 in January, 100 in October, 150 in November and 100 in December.

Red-crested Pochard *Netta rufina*

Singles at Homsea Mere on 7th February, 2nd September and 3rd October; two on 14th September and 7th October with three there on 18th then four between 5th and 12th December. In VC63, a female/immature bird was present at Pugney's C.P. on 11th September and at Angler's C.P. on 16th; two immatures at Thrybergh C.P. on 4th October. A female at Fairburn Ings, VC64, was seen on 5th and 7th April reappearing at nearby Swillington Ings on 8th then Fleet Plantation and Swillington again on 25th. An immature male at Bolton-on-Swale on 1st September.

Pochard *Aythya ferina*

23 pairs bred at the Lower Derwent Valley NNR but again no estimate of success. The only other breeding record from VC61 being of four successful pairs at Tophill Low NR. One pair at Old Denaby being the only record received from VC63 whilst in VC64, seven pairs at Fairburn Ings produced five broods totalling 26 young of which 15 fledged. Three pairs reared 12 young at Mickletown Ings. Did not breed in VC65.

Very low winter numbers at the Lower Derwent Valley NNR with 275 in February as the peak. Maximum at Homsea Mere was 628 on 18th October with 180 at Tophill Low NR in December and 135 at Welton Water on 2nd December. The only significant number reported from VC62 was 120 at Seamer Road Mere, Scarborough on 21st November. Fairburn Ings had 285 on 6th March with 232 on 17th August and 225 on 28th December. Slightly larger counts at nearby Swillington Ings with 347 in February, 302 in November and 303 in December, whilst 380 were at Malham Tarn on 11th March. 215 at Bolton-on-Swale, VC65, on 28th December was the highest count in that vice-county.

Ring-necked Duck *Aythya collaris*

The Fairburn Ings male returned on 6th March for its' eighth year, being seen frequently until 11th June and again on 27th. During this period it was also reported from other nearby locations; Allerton Bywater on 1st, 18th and 28th April; Parker's Pond, Ledston on 8th, 11th and 18th April; Swillington Ings on 17th, 27th and 28th April then 5th, 6th June. (JG: RH: JRM: JM: AJR: GLH: PRM et al).

A drake in eclipse plumage at Pugney's C.P. on 7th September (PS) being reported from Angler's C.P. between 8th and 15th (SD et al).

Addition to the 1991 Report: A male at Homsea Mere on 25th May (TDC et al)

Addition to the 1992 Report: A male at Homsea Mere from 5th April to 2nd May (TDC et al) - no doubt the 1991 bird returning.

Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula*

Record breeding numbers at the Lower Derwent Valley NNR with 70 pairs and at Tophill Low NR with at least ten pairs. Bred at a further six locations in VC61; five in VC62 whilst in VC63, 90 pairs were reported at 32 waters including ten at Potteric Carr; eight at Blaxton and seven each at

Worsbrough, Broomhill Ings and Walton Hall. Some 25 pairs bred in VC64 but with poor success (Fairburn Ings having 15 pairs which only fledged 15 young). Bred at six locations in VC65.

Highest counts were 600 to 700 at Tophill Low NR in January and February; 544 at Hornsea Mere on 18th October; 447 at Fairburn Ings on 7th February and 409 on 25th July. Swillington Ings recorded 444 in January, 447 in August, 425 in September and 1,000 on 25th November. 163 at Bolton-on-Swale on 22nd August.

Scaup *Aythya marila*

Small numbers along the coast during both winter periods with maxima of 12 south at Spurn on 23rd October with 16 there on 13th November and 12 at Filey on 20th. 21 flew west at Sunk Island also on 20th.

One or two occasionally at several inland locations with a small influx in to VC63 in late autumn when two were reported from Southfield Res. on 28th October increasing to seven by 18th November then five present on 5th December. Similarly in VC64, five at Swillington Ings on 23rd October whilst eight were at Hay-a-Park on 30th. Three at Fairburn Ings on 2nd December remained all month being joined by a further three on 31st.

Eider *Somateria mollissima*

Scarce along the coast during the early months with 34 in Filey Bay during March the maximum. Peaks during the latter months were 84 at Filey in November and 63 during December. Offshore, passage peaked at 120 at Flamborough on 21st November, 61 on 26th and 48 on 31st December; at Filey 66 on 28th September and 48 on 18th November whilst at Spurn, 33 passed south on 29th September and 50 on 24th October. Along the Humber, at Sunk Island, 16 flew east and 48 west on 21st November.

A small influx noted inland in late autumn included a record of 32 at Angler's C.P. on 2nd November. Single males were at Southfield Res. on 8th November and Baildon Bridge from 8th to 21st. In VC64, singles at Chelker Res. on 31st October-1st November and at Swillington Ings on 2nd November. Three at Farnham G.P. from 4th to 8th November, with two remaining until 21st.

Long-tailed Duck *Clangula hyemalis*

Only singles along the coast during the early months excepting at Spurn where three were reported on 20th March. Slightly more birds and records during the latter months with 11 at Flamborough on 6th November and seven the following day when seven were also seen off Filey. Five at Flamborough on 21st November with four on 14th December. Two at Spurn on 11th October, otherwise singles occasionally at Saltwick Nab, Scalby, Hornsea and Spurn.

One west along the Humber at Sunk Island on 23rd November whilst singles were reported from freshwater locations as follows: Hornsea Mere on 17th April and 27th December remaining into 1994; Tophill Low NR on 31st October until 7th November, 27 November and 4th December remaining to the year end; Hurd's Pond (near Scarborough) on 11th October and Broomhill Ings from 30th October to 4th November. One present at Eccup Res. from 15th to 17th June.

Common Scoter *Melanitta nigra*

Quite widespread along the coast, being noted in all months but relatively small numbers during the early months when 59 at Flamborough on 24th April was the peak. 125 there on 31st July when 86 at Spurn. The main passage occurred during October with 133 at Filey on 21st; the following day 400 at Spurn, 241 at Filey and 115 at Flamborough, whilst on 23rd there were 442 at Flamborough with 140 at Spurn and 161 at Long Nab.

48 flew east along the Humber at Sunk Island on 4th August.

Quite well distributed inland with one to four at some 15 locations. Larger counts reported were five at Eccup Res. on 18th September with six at Swillington Ings on 14th, then ten at Scorton Quarry on 3rd June and 38 (all males) at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 16th July.

Velvet Scoter *Melanitta fusca*

Only small numbers along the coast between January and March and again from late July to the year end. Usually one to three reported but four at Spurn on 26th March with 11 there on 10th April. Six at Flamborough on 25th September with six on 28th then five on 13th October and 17 on 23rd. Seven at Filey on 25th September were followed by four on 30th October.

Two at Sunk Island on 20th November whilst an adult male was present at Eccup Res. on 13th October.

Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula*

Many waters held birds during both winter periods with maxima at favoured locations of: Hornsea Mere, 195 in March and 294 in April; Tophill Low NR, 140 in November and 124 in December; Angler's C.P., 68 on 24th January with 54 on 19th December; 81 at Swillington Ings on 3rd January and 60 in February; 94 at Fairburn Ings from 4th to 6th March whilst 33 at Bolton-on-Swale on 7th March.

Only small numbers were recorded from along the coast with a peak count of 32 at Filey.

Summering birds, usually immature males but occasionally adult males and females were at Malham Tam, Lindley Wood Res., Eccup Res., Harewood Park and High Batts NR whilst two were at Pulfen Bog on 4th June and two remained at Tophill Low NR all summer.

Smew *Mergus albellus*

During the early months, two at Tophill Low NR on 31st January with one the following day; one at Broomfleet Ponds on 19th February with singles at Hornsea Mere and Catfoss on 22nd March the latter still present on 23rd; Pulfen Bog on 3rd and 7th April then Catfoss on 14th and 22nd.

One at Hornsea Mere on 5th December with two at Tophill Low NR on 30th. A female was at Swillington Ings from 27th November, joined by a second 29th with both present to 4th December and one remaining into 1994. A female at Scorton Quarry from 21st to 26th November.

Red-breasted Merganser *Mergus serrator*

Once again bred at Redmires Res. with five young present on 16th June but as usual none survived. A pair were at Blackmoorfoot Res. from 12th to 18th June.

Small numbers, one to three, at many locations, mainly during the winter months but seven flew west at Angler's C.P. on 15th October whilst eight males were at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 25th.

Occasionally small numbers along the coast, usually one to four birds, but six north at Spurn on 20th April; six at Filey on 25th September with nine there on 12th October and six on 24th. Six in Jackson's Bay on 30th September; six at Scalby Mills on 13th October with seven at Flamborough on 23rd October.

12 along the Humber at Sunk Island on 25th April and eight west there on 25th September.

Goosander *Mergus merganser*

Breeding status would appear to be unchanged in VC62, 63 and 65.

Large winter gatherings were recorded at Leighton Res. with 228 in January; 80 in February and 129 in December. Hay-a-Park with 184 in January; 240 in February; 150 in March; 109 in October; 150 in November and 170 during December. Eccup Res. reported 127 in January with 154 during February then 96 on 14th April (the highest April count ever for the County), 65 in November and 171 during December. Two hundred were at High Batts NR in January whilst Fairburn Ings had a peak of 87 on 14th March.

Scarce in VC61 excepting at the Lower Derwent Valley NNR where 84 were reported in February with 64 in March and 87 in December whilst only Castle Howard in VC62 recorded large numbers with 106 in January; 81 in March and 82 in December.

Ruddy Duck *Oxyura jamaicensis*

Still quite scarce in VC61 with only confirmed breeding occurring at Tophill Low NR (first ever); maximum counts there being 37 in January; 23 in October; 29 in November and 31 in December. One

at Settrington on 18th January was the first for that location. Scarce also in VC62 with, very occasionally, one or two at Castle Howard being the only records.

Widespread in VC63 where some 50 breeding pairs reported. Increasing in the Barnsley area where 24 pairs hatched 97 young including 15 pairs at Broomhill Ings with 67 young. Fifteen pairs reported from the Doncaster area. Fifty eight males were at Southfield Res. on 28th October.

In VC64, four pairs at Fairburn Ings raised 21 young; one pair at Allerton Bywater; six pairs at Mickletown Ings and two at Swillington Ings. Still increasing in the Harrogate area though as yet not reported as breeding. Swillington Ings, again, held very large numbers in the winter months with 181 in January; 92 in March; 90 in September; 182 October; 230 in November (on 25th - a County record) and 211 in December.

Scarce in VC65 during the early months but at Bolton-on-Swale, a late summer influx to peak at 31 on 14th November but only eight at the year's end.

Honey Buzzard *Pernis apivorus*

The returning birds did not breed this year owing to disturbance from tree felling.

Singles at Spurn on 5th June and 13th September; Stocksbridge Res. on 29th August and in Wharfedale on 6th September.

Black Kite *Milvus migrans*

Addition to 1989 Report: One over Hornsea Mere on 12th May (TDC: MrsUJD).

Red Kite *Milvus milvus*

One north over North Anston Pit on 27th May (MJT). One east over Colnbridge (Huddersfield) on 3rd December may have been the bird seen the following day in the Ryburn Valley and at Ringstone Edge (DC: HIT: DW). One at Scalby Nabs on 5th December (PF) was no doubt the bird seen flying east at Hornsea Mere that same day (DC: TDC et al).

White-tailed Eagle *Haliaeetus albicilla*

An immature at Grimworth Dam on 3rd December (AJM: MP).

Addition to 1990 Report: One at Broomfleet Ponds on 3rd February (TAE).

Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*

A pair reared two young in VC61 whilst another pair nested at Blacktoft Sands but failed during incubation and a third pair held territory at another location.

Generally a good year with increasing numbers being reported from an increasing number of locations - extreme dates being 27th March and 22nd October. Invariably only single birds were reported away from the breeding/summering locations but two at Spurn on 15th and 29th May; at Easington on 5th May; Pickles Gill on 23rd May and Grimston on 18th August.

A minimum of 24 individuals passed through Blacktoft Sands in spring with ten in autumn; the highest daily count being six on 21st August. Elsewhere in autumn two were at Thorne Moors on 21st August with three there on 11th September, whilst two were at South Highfields Quarry on 15th September.

Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*

At least four sites were occupied in the Yorkshire Dales National Park during the breeding season with two being successful, rearing three and four young respectively. Up to seven birds were present in the Colsterdale/Leighton Res. area during the early months with at least three during the latter months. At least five in the Wharfedale and Washburn valley areas from January to March with at least six in the same areas during the latter months. Eight or more individuals were recorded in the south-west moorlands of VC63 in the first quarter of the year with nine at least during the last.

Remains scarce in VC61 and VC62 though three were at Danby on 3rd January.

Pallid Harrier *Circus macrourus*

A male at Puffin Bog on the evening of 9th September (DGH). The second record for Yorkshire; the first being shot at nearby Hutton Cranswick on 2nd October 1952.
Still under consideration by BBRC.

Montagu's Harrier *Circus pygargus*

A ringtail at Moss (nr. Askem) on 27th April (AJR) and a female at Spurn on 29th May (BRS et al).

Addition to 1992 Report: A male at Grimston on 4th May (AI).

Goshawk *Accipiter gentilis*

Few comments on breeding though depressing news from the south-west moorlands where three pairs were robbed at the egg stage. At least five pairs reported breeding at other locations whilst single birds were reported from many locations. Along the coast; one at Spurn on 16th September was only the 6th occurrence at that location; singles at Flamborough on 27th March; 11th and 17th September; 23rd October; 6th, 23rd and 27th November.

Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus*

Widespread in VC61 with passage noted along the coast at Grimston where five were reported on 9th September with eight to ten at Flamborough between 15th and 19th September; five at Spurn on 15th September and six at Sunk Island on 6th November.

No comments from the other vice-counties but no change in status apparent and in some locations now very common.

Buzzard *Buteo buteo*

The increase in breeding numbers continues with three pairs in the Richmond area producing nine young. Two other pairs were confirmed as breeding in VC65 though no further details were forthcoming whilst a further five pairs probably bred plus birds being recorded from another five locations during the breeding season. According the York Ornithological Club Annual Report "a pair in the Lower Derwent valley on 27th May remained until 23rd June and were seen carrying nesting material".

Numbers in Colsterdale and the Leighton Res. areas of VC64 and VC65 were high during the autumn with varying totals reported. Up to ten were quoted by one source with eight in the air together (plus a Goshawk) whilst another source quoted between 21 and 27 in those areas together with Upper Nidderdale.

Away from that area, quite well distributed in VC63 with one south at Thrybergh C.P. on 6th April; two at Walshaw Dean on 22nd March; two at Wilsic on 17th/18th September and two at Southfield Res. on 30th September. Single birds being reported from many other locations. Two at Low North Camp (VC62) on 5th/6th April, whilst single birds were reported from 12 locations in VC61 mainly during the autumn.

Rough-legged Buzzard *Buteo lagopus*

Scarce. Single individuals were reported from Colsterdale on 11th February and Gouthwaite Res. on 27th/28th. One being mobbed by a Marsh Harrier at Sherburn Carr on 17th September (RHA: HOB) with one over Oxstones, Sheffield on 23rd October.

Golden Eagle *Aquila chrysaetos*

The immature present from 1992 in the Colsterdale area remained until April (JEA: JTF et al) being seen also at Middlemoor in February; Blubberhouses Moor and Timble on 6th March (PC: RS: KM) and near Gouthwaite Res. on 20th (PJC: BFD).

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*

One reported at Winscar Res. on 1st January. Quite widespread in spring with the first being at Stocksbridge Res. and Swinsty Res. on 4th April. All records of spring birds were of singles excepting two in the Lower Derwent valley on 23rd May.

In June, single birds were reported from Filey on 1st; Wykeham on 5th and 10th; Sykehouse on 6th/7th; Blacktoft Sands on 8th; Newington on 10th then Hillam on 27th. In July, one at Tophill Low NR on 2nd then on 17th in Wharfedale (near Grassington); on 18th at Castle Howard; 21st at High Batts NR and Ewden Beck Res. on 28th.

Quite widespread also in autumn with, again, invariably single birds but two at Masham on 14th August; two in the Lower Derwent valley on 30th then two at Thrybergh C.P. on 4th October. These together with one at Oxenhope on the same day being the last of the year.

Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*

No apparent change in status. Up to eight at Swillington Ings in August; eleven at Spurn during the early part of that same month. Autumnal passage noted at Spurn with 17 south on 4th October whilst 13 were at Flamborough on 30th with 12 on 6th November. Twelve at Sunk Island on 11th September.

Merlin *Falco columbarius*

Poor spring weather is considered to have badly hit this species in the northern dales, however 54 pairs were reported in the Yorkshire Dales National Park (RSPB Survey). In VC63, ten pairs bred successfully in the Sheffield area with four in the Barnsley area (a further two were unsuccessful) and three pairs near Huddersfield.

Quite widespread outside the breeding season in lowland areas; generally single birds but six south at Spurn on 11th September.

Hobby *Falco subbuteo*

A pair in suitable habitat for three weeks to mid June (in the Doncaster area) whilst two adults and a sub adult summered on Thorne Moors.

Generally an increase in records with the first at Flamborough on 25th April and the last at the same location on 12th October. Most records concerned single birds but two at Tophill Low NR from 21st June to 4th July; Spurn on 14th May; Scarborough on 12th May; Rother Valley C.P. on 29th May and Broomhill Ings on 2nd September.

Peregrine *Falco peregrinus*

Considered to have bred on the cliffs to the south of Whitby probably rearing one young. Bred in the Barnsley area for the first time though regrettably the nest was robbed. Reported breeding at six locations in the Sheffield area (no further details) with five occupied nest sites in the Huddersfield area. No details from VC64 but regarded as unchanged in status whilst reported as having a reasonable breeding season in VC65. Increasingly recorded from lowland areas with up to three roosting on the cooling towers at Elland.

Red Grouse *Lagopus lagopus*

A poor breeding season reported from VC64 and VC65 due to poor weather and/or disease.

Black Grouse *Tetrao tetrix*

No birds found this year during the Yorkshire Dales National Park survey. Very scarce this year on Feldom Ranges; two males present in Arkengarthdale; two at Thruscross on 15th and 23rd April with four at Ling Gill in mid October.

Red-legged Partridge *Alectoris rufa*

Reports received would indicate a general decline. The largest coveys reported were 40 at Thrybergh C.P. on 14th September; 35 at Flamborough on 24th October; 15 at Filey on 26th and 14 at Nosterfield on 29th January.

Grey Partridge *Perdix perdix*

Status would appear to be unchanged. Fifty-three at Thrybergh C.P. on 6th September with 30 at the Lower Derwent Valley NNR on 2nd November; 28 at Flamborough on 10th October and 27 at Fulford on 19th November.

Quail *Coturnix coturnix*

Three at Cayton Carr on 16th June with two also there on 12th June and 12th July whilst three between Tickhill and Stainton on 10th August. Singles heard or seen occasionally at Grimston; Thornborough; Keswick Fitts; Skelmanthorpe; South Kirby; Howell Wood; Bewholme; Flamborough; Owstwick; Hawsker and Spurn.

Pheasant *Phasianus colchicus*

No apparent change in status - widely released by shooting syndicates.

Golden Pheasant *Chrysolophus pictus*

One in a Steeton (Bradford) garden on 3rd November. A male at Broomhill Ings on 26th November. The Whitcliffe Woods population (VC65) would appear to have died out.

Lady Amherst's Pheasant *Chrysolophus amherstiae*

A male at Steeton and Silsden station on 2nd October.

Water Rail *Rallus aquaticus*

Four pairs in one small area at Wheldrake Ings was thought to represent only a small percentage of the breeding population of the Lower Derwent Valley NNR. One pair at Skipwith Common whilst ten pairs were considered to have bred at Blacktoft Sands and at least ten calling birds were reported from Fairburn Ings where three pairs definitely bred. Breeding suspected near Kirby Fleetham, VC65.

Well distributed at suitable locations, usually one to four individuals, but 22 seen at Blacktoft Sands on 30th October with up to 20 at Wheldrake Ings in March.

Spotted Crane *Porzana porzana*

One at Blacktoft Sands on 15th July with a juvenile at Tophill Low NR from 24th August to 11th September (BC: JVH et al). An adult, found freshly dead at Crockey Hill, York on 8th October.

Corncrake *Crex crex*

One heard several times at Brighton during May; one calling in the Lower Derwent valley between 12th and 13th June; one calling at Flamborough on 1st July with one seen at Sunk Island in 12th September.

Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*

Widespread. Re-colonised the outer head at Flamborough after recent drought years. Breeding success thought to be down in parts of VC61 otherwise no change in status reported.

Coot *Fulica atra*

Status unchanged. Usual large gatherings at favoured waters with peaks of 692 at Farnham G.P. in October; 764 in December at Hay-a-Park; 751 at Fairburn Ings in October; 800 at Tophill Low NR in January and 1530 at Hornsea Mere on 18th October with 1722 there on 14th November.

Common Crane *Grus grus*

Three north over Tophill Low NR on 9th October (TR). A juvenile to the east at Broomhill Ings on 30th November remained in the Highgate area until 8th December (JMT: PM et al). This bird was seen flying west over South Hiendley on 15th; roosting at Angler's C.P. on 19th and 24th to 26th. On the latter date it was also seen at Skelmanthorpe then between Kinsley and South Hiendley and finally reported on 27th flying south over Crosspool and west over Calton Marsh. An adult over Doncaster on 5th December (NSR).

Demoiselle Crane *Anthropoides virgo*

An adult flew into the Spurn area on 13th September remaining in the immediate vicinity until 23rd, visiting Beacon Ponds, Easington between 14th and 20th. First record for Spurn BO.

Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*

No change in the breeding status reported. Peak counts at Spurn were; January 4,000; February 1,100; March 1,100; less than 800 April to July then August 2,000; September 4,000; October 5,000; November 2,000 and December 4,000. 781 were on the beach at Cromer Point on 21st April. Peak day for southerly passage at Spurn was 6th August with 444, this being reflected at Flamborough where 463 were recorded with 389 at Filey. 228 also passed Spurn on 11th.

Spring passage was pronounced in both VC64 and VC65 with peaks of 106 at Nosterfield on 2nd March; 100 at Grimwith Res. on 9th March; 100 in Littondale on 13th February; 75 at both Masham and Marfield Quarry on 11th March. Autumn records reflected lower numbers though more marked than during recent years in VC54 with 75 at Masham on 17th July; 52 at Scorton on 21st July and 46 at Marfield Quarry on 17th July.

Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus*

A pair, accompanied by a first year male, was reported from Wheldrake Ings on 6th May (RSS: PP: AW).

Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*

Three pairs bred at Blacktoft Sands but reared only one young. A seventh adult was also present on 7th August.

Single birds were reported from Skeffling on 17th/18th February; Wheldrake on 9th March; Cherry Cobb on 14th March; Beacon Ponds on 6th May and at Spurn on 2nd and 5th October.

Stone Curlew *Burhinus oedipnemus*

Single birds were reported from Beacon Ponds, Easington on 20th/21st April (AB et al) and on 31st May.

Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*

Scarce as a breeder in VC61 with only two pairs at Tophill Low NR and one at Welton Water. Attempted/possible breeding at Wheldrake Ings; Escrick; Elvington and Pulfin Bog. The only breeding in VC62 was at Wykeham Carr whilst in VC63, eight pairs bred at six locations in the Barnsley area; two in the Bradford area; two near Halifax; nine near Doncaster and at least two near Sheffield.

Breeding pairs at 13 locations in VC64 succeeded in rearing young at six; failed at three for various reasons with no further details from the other four. Six pairs at five locations in VC65 with additionally, six pairs along the River Swale between Little Langton and Ellerton but unseasonal flooding resulted in only one of those pairs being successful.

The first of the year was at Blacktoft Sands on 12th March then at Edderthorpe Flash; Masham; Marfield Quarry and Angler's CP on 13th. The largest gathering in spring being 15 at Broomhill Ings on 29th March and, in autumn, 26 there on 2nd July with 26 at Bolton-on-Swale on 5th. The last to be recorded was at High Batts NR on 28th September.

Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*

Good breeding season at Beacon Ponds where eight pairs were present around the periphery of the Little Tern colony. One pair in VC63 at Thome Colliery whilst in VC64, bred successfully at Leventhorpe Ash Ponds and Swillington Ings; attempted to breed at Farnham GP whilst no details were received from Grimwith Res. (regular breeding area). In VC65, three pairs at Scorton Quarry with one each at Pallet Hill and Nosterfield and attempted to breed at Masham.

Maximum at Spurn was 220 on 3rd August with about 100 during most of September and October otherwise generally less than 60. 208 at Sunk Island on 15th May then 160 on 4th June and 112 on 22nd August (no comments concerning birds of the race *C.h.tundrae*). 112 at Blacktoft Sands on 21st May with a peak of 32 *C.h.tundrae* on 6th June.

Little coastal passage reported. Widespread inland albeit in small numbers; 29 southwest at Angler's CP with 25 at Broomhill Ings on 21st May as the maxima reported.

Kentish Plover *Charadrius alexandrinus*

One at Beacon Ponds, Easington on 21st and 22nd May (many obs.).

Dotterel *Charadrius morinellus*

There is a distinct possibility that breeding occurred in the County. Up to five birds were present at this location during early May with a single male performing vigorous distraction display around the feet of the observer on 23rd June.

One, with a large flock of Golden Plover, at Wheldrake Ings on 8th March; nine at Filey on 8th May (a poor spring showing).

In autumn, two over Flamborough on 14th September with singles at Tophill Low NR on 12th September and Sunk Island on 12th October.

'Lesser' Golden Plover *Pluvialis fulva/dominica*

A summer plumaged individual at Blacktoft Sands on 30th July was claimed as an **American Golden Plover** *P. dominica*, but not accepted as such (T K Sykes et al) whilst another at Flamborough on 3rd September was probably **Pacific Golden Plover** *P. fulva*, but could not be assigned with certainty (PAL).

Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*

222 breeding pairs found in the Yorkshire Dales National Park area of VC64 and VC65. No comments from VC62 or VC63.

Gatherings on the Humber this year not particularly large with peaks of 5,000 at the Humber Wildfowl Refuge on 10th October, mainly 2,500 to 4,000 at Sunk Island but an isolated peak of 9,000 on 2nd October. Good numbers at the Lower Derwent Valley NNR with monthly maxima of; January - 3,625; February - 6,000; March - 6,500; April - 1,500 and December - 4,000. In VC63; 2,500 at Todwick during February; 2,800 in November/December with 3,000 at Thorpe Marsh during mid February. 2,000 were in the Leeds/Bradford Airport area during January whilst 2,000+ flew south over Swillington Ings on 6th December. Bolton-on-Swale, VC65, held 2,000 on 30th January.

Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*

In autumn; 1,400 roosted at Sunk Island on 22nd August whilst 1,800 were at Welwick Marshes on 6th September (largest count from any location ever in Yorkshire). Other counts at Sunk Island

were 322 on 25th April; 393 on 7th May with 345 on 4th September. Beacon Ponds, Easington held 103 on 8th May with 130 on 28th whilst peak at Spum was 116 on 2nd April. Maxima at the Humber Wildfowl Refuge were 500 on 29th September; 275 on 10th October with 250 on 7th November.

More than usual were reported inland in September with 16 at Tophill Low NR on 13th and 22 on 29th. Eight at Fairbairns Ings on 16th and 18th; 22 south at Edderthorpe Flash on 14th; 15 west at Southfield Res. on 21st with 14 were there on 27th. One to four during this period at a further 14 locations.

Very little coastal passage noted with 18 south at Scarborough on 13th September being the maximum reported.

Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*

Damp weather brought larger breeding numbers to the Lower Derwent Valley NNR where there was an estimated 250 pairs. Very few elsewhere in VC61. Few also in VC62 whilst in VC63, 26 pairs reported at Broomhill Ings; 18 at Edderthorpe Flash with 14 at Wilsic; ten at Carr Hill (Doncaster) whilst displaying birds were reported from 12 locations in the Sheffield area ("significant increase on 1992"). No change in status reported from VC64 or VC65.

Large flocks were noted in many areas with the maximum being 6,000 on the Lower Derwent Valley NNR in February; 4,000 at the Humber Wildfowl Refuge on 7th November; 2,000 at Bolton-on-Swale in January and 1,470 at Broomhill Ings on 14th September.

Sociable Plover *Chettusia gregaria*

One near Broomfleet Ponds from 15th to 27th October 1992 (TAE) will, if accepted by BBRC, be the first record for Yorkshire.

Knot *Calidris canutus*

Peak counts on the Humber were 4,500 at Spum during January/February with 1,200 on 12th November; 1,200 at Sunk Island on 6th February and 3,100 on 13th November.

Southerly passage along the coast was noted in autumn with 73 off Spum on 16th July; 230 past Filey the following day whilst, in August, 128 off Spum on 9th and 205 on 29th when 145 were also noted passing Grimston.

Blacktoft Sands recorded small numbers in spring with 14 on 9th May and 19 the following day. Inland, small numbers - invariably one or two - reported from 11 locations though four were at Swillington Ings on 12th May with three there the following day.

Sanderling *Calidris alba*

An unprecedented flock on the beach at Sandsend for about ten days from 4th February peaked at 450+ on 4th/5th. Up to 50 at Spum during the early months but 102 on 2nd April; 120 on 4th May with 150 on 16th. In autumn, 110 on 24th July increasing to 320 on 10th August then 510 on 12th, after which numbers decreased with up to 250 during September and October. 180 were present in Filey Bay during early February then 109 on 24th with 110 on 7th March. Between 60 and 80 there during November and December. 87 on the beach at Aldbrough on 11th February. Away from the coast, spring passage peaked at Sunk Island with 99 on 16th May and 105 on 6th June.

One to three were reported from 11 locations, mainly in May but five at Angler's CP. Up to four were present at Fairbairns Ings in late July. Three at Malham Tarn on 27th constituted the first occurrence at that location.

Little Stint *Calidris minuta*

Small numbers in spring with singles at Beacon Ponds on five dates between 20th April and 31st May; two at Sunk Island on 5th June with one remaining the following day. In VC64, one at Fairbairns Ings on 8th May whilst one had been at Famham GP on 10th April; one at Swillington Ings on 14th May.

Occasionally during July, with small numbers, usually one to three in August but 12 (all juveniles) at Blacktoft Sands on 31st. An influx in September recorded at many locations with large counts at several. Blacktoft Sands had 22 on 3rd; 58 on 12th and 68 on 18th; six at Edderthorpe Flash

on 13th; ten at Scorton Quarry on 15th; 18 at Fairburn Ings on 10th; six at Spurn on 19th whilst eight at Saltwick Nab from 19th to 22nd; five at Sunk Island on 4th with 25 at Tophill Low NR on 11th; 57 on 13th and 16 on 24th.

In October; seven at Tophill Low NR on 1st and 14 at Blacktoft Sands on 7th. Singles during this month at a further five locations.

Temminck's Stint *Calidris temminckii*

Singles in May at Fairburn Ings from 7th to 9th; Blacktoft Sands on 11th/12th; Denaby Ings from 11th to 14th; Beacon Ponds on 12th and Filey Dams on 21st.

In autumn; at Thornton Moor Res. on 2nd/3rd September; Stapleton on 15th/16th and Flamborough on 16th.

White-rumped Sandpiper *Calidris fuscicollis*

One at Tophill Low NR on 4th September (BB: FXM: TR et al).

Addition to 1990 Report: One at Broomfleet Ponds from 17th to 21st September (TAE). Still under consideration by BBRC.

Pectoral Sandpiper *Calidris melanotos*

Singles at Blacktoft Sands from 28th to 30th August; at Tophill Low NR from 5th to 7th September (JB: TR: et al) with another present from 12th to 15th (RL et al) and a third from 23rd September to 2nd October (TR et al).

Addition to 1987 Report: One at Sandsfield GP on 24th July (BR).

Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*

Singles in spring at Spurn; Sunk Island; Beacon Ponds; Fairburn Ings and Broomhill Ings. Two at Beacon Ponds on 16th May with three at Blacktoft Sands on 14th and three at Sunk Island on 23rd.

In autumn, one to four at many locations but eight at Broomhill Ings on 8th September; 20 (adults) at Blacktoft Sands from 4th to 6th August. The first juveniles appeared there on 22nd August increasing to 31 on 27th with a peak of 41 on 11th September - the last being on 11th October. At Tophill Low NR; ten on 28th August; 18 on 6th September with 20 from 10th then 33 on 17th and the last, two, on 26th October.

Purple Sandpiper *Calidris maritima*

59 in Whitby Harbour on 31st January with 93 there on 6th March; up to 55 at Flamborough during the early months whilst at Filey; up to 96 were present though peaked at 150 on 10th March. South of Bridlington only single birds were very infrequently reported.

During the latter months, numbers low at Flamborough until 21st November when 27 were present then 35 to 60 during December; at Filey, only 40 during October. 50 at Whitby on 5th December.

Dunlin *Calidris alpina*

23 pairs found breeding in 120 sq. km. of the Yorkshire Dales National Park; six pairs at Black Moss (VC63) with one pair at Howden Moor.

Up to 1,500 regularly at Spurn during the period January to mid May. In autumn, numbers built up to 2,000 by 19th July thence 6,200 on 1st September; 5,800 on 2nd and 4,000 on 4th, after which numbers fluctuated between 1,000 and 3,500 until the end of December. Sunk Island reported 2,150 on 24th April with between 1,800 and 2,500 during the latter months. 1,150 at the Humber Wildfowl Refuge on 14th September with 1,200 on 15th September and 1,250 on 19th; 1,500 to 1,700 there during November. Roosts at Beacon Ponds held 2,800 on 24th August with 2,500 on 17th October. Smaller counts of up to 350 on 24th August at several coastal locations north of Flamborough.

Inland, reported from many locations, generally up to 15 but 31 at Fairburn Ings on 8th September; 26 at Gouthwaite Res. in January with up to 33 at Swillington Ings. 33 at Bolton-on-Swale on 15th September. The exception to these low numbers was Tophill Low NR where 510 were present

in January; 570 in February and 300 in March. Smaller counts there during the latter months with a maximum of 55 on 4th November.

Broad-billed Sandpiper *Limicola falcinellus*

An adult at Blacktoft Sands on 21st June with a juvenile there on 15th September (AG et al).

Ruff *Philomachus pugnax*

Breeding was proven at the Lower Derwent Valley NNR where small juveniles were seen at two sites in July.

Up to 41 were present at the Lower Derwent Valley NNR during January with 22 in February and 107 in March decreasing to 40 during April. As many as seven remained during May with five males three females in June. Autumn passage here was low with a maximum of 24 however numbers increased during the winter with 75 present on 11th December and 86 on 30th.

Elsewhere; peak counts at Blacktoft Sands were 117 on 17th August; 96 in September and 115 in October. Tophill Low NR reported 63 on 27th August increasing to 106 on 28th then 129 on 31st. During September numbers continued to increase with 158 on 3rd; 168 on 9th; 263 on 10th and 275 on 11th (a record count for Yorkshire) declining thereafter but a later peak of 128 on 22nd. There was an isolated gathering of 105 on stubble at Easington on 19th September. Flamborough recorded 28 on 18th/19th September, a record for that location whilst at Filey, 21 were present on 2nd September.

Other notable counts reported were; in VC63; 16 at Fairburn Ings on 20th September and, in VC65, 13 at Bolton-on-Swale on 13th.

Excepting the birds on the Lower Derwent, very few reported after mid October.

Jack Snipe *Lymnocyptes minimus*

Quite widespread, albeit usually one to three individuals during both winters, at most locations. Larger gatherings were reported from Wilthorpe Flash with four on 24th November; four at Rawcliffe Meadows in early March; five at Clifton on 20th November; six at Riccall Ings on 7th November with eight at Treeton Dyke on 29th December and 13 at Highfields Quarry, Doncaster on 12th November.

Common Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*

An estimated 180 drumming birds at the Lower Derwent Valley NNR - a return to more normal numbers following very dry years. Elsewhere breeding numbers appeared to be unchanged with 13 drumming at Broomhill Ings and at 19 locations in the Sheffield area. 73 pairs were located in 120 sq. km. survey in the Yorkshire Dales National Park.

During the early months, 100 at the Lower Derwent Valley NNR in March was the largest gathering. Extremely large numbers along this valley in November with 500+ at Wheldrake Ings on 9th and 700+ on 11th when a total estimated at 1,030 was present between Wheldrake and Bubwith (the largest gathering ever reported in Yorkshire). Flooding caused a mass exodus but 120 were again present on 27th whilst 300 were on plough near Wheldrake village during this period.

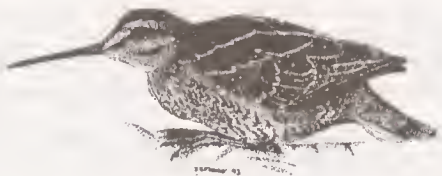
A large influx was noted along the coast in late November with 55 at Spurn on 22nd then 120 on 25th (a record for this location), all having departed by 28th. 100 at Flamborough on 23rd with 67 on 26th; 70+ at Hurd's Pond, Scarborough though 117 at Filey Dams on 10th were not part of this influx.

Inland, 141 at Fairburn Ings on 20th September was a high count for that location. Numbers elsewhere were low whilst the decline in VC65 continues.

Great Snipe *Gallinago media*

One at Filey Brigg on 18th and 19th September (AB: PJD: CCT et al).

One at Spurn on 19th September had almost certainly been present the previous day (LGD: DW; SW et al).



Woodcock *Scolopax rusticola*

No apparent change in breeding status. Fifty roding birds in the Barnsley area with the stronghold being the Little Don and Ewden valleys. Up to six roding birds were reported from many other locations.

Up to 20 were in the Middlemoor area during January whilst this species was reported as being unusually numerous in the Masham area during the early months.

No large influx noted during the autumn though 22 were at Flamborough on 23rd October when 19 were recorded at Spum.

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*

Breeding was again attempted at the Lower Derwent Valley NNR and again failed.

Unprecedented numbers were reported in spring from that location with 70 on 20th April and 104 on 22nd many of these birds were considered to have been of the Icelandic race *L.l.islandica*. At Blacktoft Sands, a very large flock of 158 was reported on 23rd April; this being a record count for Yorkshire; whilst 11 were at Malham Tarn on 22nd.

Continues to increase along the Humber where, at Sunk Island, 60 were present on 30th January; 43 on 14th February then 44 on 25th April; 46 on 8th August; 128 on 14th with 46 on 19th September after which numbers declined to the year's end. Nearby Cherry Cobb had 27 on 22nd August with 61 on 19th September. 27 at Blacktoft Sands on 31st July remaining to the following day.

Inland, 12 flew east at Cawthorne (Barnsley) on 8th July with nine over Broomhill Ings on 8th August; eight at Thorne Moors on 18th whilst seven were at Leventhorpe Ash Ponds on 1st July. One to four occasionally at some 20 other locations.

Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*

On the Humber, at Sunk Island, 410 were present on 20th February and 450 on 22nd August; 170 at Skeffling on 28th November whilst small numbers, invariably less than 20, were at Spum. Coastal passage was light with 52 on 6th May at Spum whilst also during this spring period birds were seen leaving to the east with 53 on 10th and 30 on 28th. Light spring passage noted at Blacktoft Sands with nine on 10th May and, in autumn, ten to the west on 29th July. Seven were also present at that location on 1st October.

Inland, singles occasionally at Fairburn Ings; Broomhill Ings; Thornton Moor Res.; Swillington Ings; Chelker Res.; Wheldrake Ings and Scorton Quarry. Two at Southfield Res. on 6th May with four on 20th August and two on 8th September.

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*

Recorded between 17th April and 18th May at the Lower Derwent Valley NNR with peaks of 77 on 29th April and 86 on 2nd May.

The first of the year was at Timble on 6th April with small numbers, one to ten, at many locations between mid April and late May. Higher counts being 24 at Spum on 25th April then ten to 30 birds daily there during the first half of May with 45 on 7th. 22 at Filey on 10th May when 26 flew northeast at Broomhill Ings and 29 at Fairburn Ings on 23rd April.

Autumn passage unusual with many locations reporting up to 20 birds on occasions; 83+ were at Spum on 16th July; 52 at Flamborough on 21st with 41 on 31st then, in August, 41 on 4th and 72 on 7th. Larger numbers were reported from Filey with 98 on 15th July; 162 on 21st and 128 on 1st August. The last of the year was at Tophill Low NR on 23rd October.

Curlew *Numenius arquata*

290 pairs were found breeding during a survey of the Yorkshire Dales National Park whilst in the lowland parts of VC64 this species is considered to be still increasing. Said to have had a rather poor breeding season in the upland areas of VC65. No comments received from VC62 or VC63. In VC61, an estimated 60 pairs along the Lower Derwent Valley NNR whilst 20+ pairs bred in the Bielby area.

Maxima at Sunk Island were 440 on 27th February; 600 on 24th July; 1200 on 7th August then 650 on 18th September thereafter 350 or less throughout the last three months of the year. 200 at the

Humber Wildfowl Refuge on 24th February was the highest count there whilst only small number were reported from Spurn where 61 on 23rd October was the peak.

Inland; the wintering flock at Otley increased from 80 on 6th February to 120 on 14th then 450 on 23rd and 710 on 27th. 600+ at Bolton-on-Swale on 14th February. In spring; 327 at Nosterfield on 1st March with 342 at Denton on 6th.; 195 at Eccup Res. in early March and 200 at Malham Tarn on 2nd April.

During the autumn, 100 at Malham Tarn on 15th June had increased to 700 on 18th July whilst 155 passed west over Otley on 10th July. 425 at Bolton-on-Swale on 2nd December with 157 at Denton on 25th December.

Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus*

Unseasonal birds were at Flamborough on 10th January and 13th/14th March with the over-wintering bird at Spurn seen occasionally to 13th February.

Spring passage was light, invariably involving single birds, but five were at Blacktoft Sands on 26th April; three at Filey on 5th May and four at the Lower Derwent Valley NNR on 7th.

Quite widespread in autumn with one of two birds at many locations but up to seven were reported from Broomhill Ings (13th) during August with four at Blacktoft Sands on 21st August; six there on 22nd September and seven on 8th October. Four or five at Tophill Low NR between 19th and 25th August. Two remained at Blacktoft Sands during November with one into December.

Redshank *Tringa totanus*

Owing to damper conditions an estimated 120 pairs bred at the Lower Derwent NNR, the only other breeding record in VC61 being from Tophill Low NR (only the second occurrence at that location) and two pairs at Riccall. In VC63, at least 30 pairs located at 15 sites, mainly one or two pairs at each, but eight at Edderthorpe Flash. 21 pairs in the Yorkshire Dales National Park with 11+ in Wharfedale and three in Littondale. Few records from the lowland areas of VC64 but seven pairs between Knostrop SF and Swillington Ings plus five pairs at Fairburn Ings. One pair at Nosterfield, VC65.

Maxima at Spurn were 1,170 in March with 1,100 in late July then 2,500 in August; 2,000 in September and 1,500 in October; less than 450 at all other times. 800 at Beacon Ponds on 21st February with 900 on 19th August and 1,000 on 21st. 177 at Flamborough on 9th January with 115 on 28th December.

Only light coastal passage reported with 91 at Spurn on 29th August as a peak.

Largest counts inland were 124 at the Lower Derwent Valley NNR in March; 51 at Tophill Low NR on 23rd February with 30 at Fairburn Ings on 24th December and 30 at Gallaber on 17th March.

Greenshank *Tringa nebulara*

No wintering birds reported with the first being on 13th March at Fairburn Ings. Spring passage was quite light but fairly widespread with several locations reporting up to four birds however 18 at Filey on 10th May was unusual.

More widespread in autumn with one to four at many locations. Larger gatherings reported were; 34 at Haverfield Quarry on 4th August and 2nd September; 17 at Blacktoft Sands on 21st August with 18 on 7th September; nine at Spurn on 28th August and eight at Fairburn Ings on 15th.

The last of the year being at Swillington Ings on 18th October.

Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*

Up to five birds reported wintering at both ends of the year in the Pocklington Canal/Melbourne Scamlands/Bielby Beck area of VC61. Singles were reported from Filey; Knostrop SF and Swinsty during the early winter with two at Knostrop SF in November/December. Either declining as a wintering bird or being under reported.

Widespread in spring though no location reported more than two birds excepting Melbourne. One summered at Leventhorpe whilst, in autumn, was very common with many locations reporting one to ten individuals. Higher counts were 11 at Melbourne on 17th August; 15 at Tophill Low NR on 19th July then 22 in early August; 15 on 23rd August and 12 on 1st September. In VC63; 11 at Blacktoft

Sands on 30th June with peak of 23 on 13th August whilst 21 were at Broomhill Ings on 7th/8th August.

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*

A mixed year - some areas reported as being poor (VC63) whilst an improvement over previous years at others.

Single birds mainly during spring at 18 locations but three at the Lower Derwent Valley NNR on 29th April; three at Fairburn Ings on 8th May and five at Filey on 11th.

More widespread during the autumn with, again, mainly singles but two at several locations and three at Fairburn Ings on 14th/15th July and up to five at Tophill Low NR between 21st July and 30th September.

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*

The first of the year was on 23rd March at West Ness (R.Rye). The main arrival fell on 9th/10th April with peak numbers during early May. Up to 20 were at Tophill Low NR on 6th; 21 at Fairburn Ings on 11th and 22 at Grimwith Res. on 4th.

Breeding status reported as unchanged excepting at Malham Tarn where eight pairs in 1967 with none this year and few individuals were recorded. A common breeder along the R. Swale near Catterick.

Widespread on autumn passage with 20 at Gouthwaite Res. in late July; 19 at Bolton-on-Swale at the end of June. The last of the year being on 16th October at Sunk Island.

Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*

Peak counts along the coast were 300 at Filey on 10th March with up to 57 during latter months; 92 at Flamborough on 3rd April then 85 on 13th September. Less than 70 at Spurn until August when the peak rose to 316 then up to 282 in September and 110 in October after which 50 or less. Small numbers along the Humber at Sunk Island where 11 were present on 22nd August whilst further up river at Blacktoft Sands, one or two were quite frequently reported with four on 21st August.

Recorded at nine other locations in VC63, usually one or two birds but three at Southfield Res. on 14th May and three again on 8th September. Three at Tophill Low NR, VC61, on 12th September whilst in VC64, four at Swillington Ings on 14th May and three at Fairburn Ings on 11th/12th May with three again on 17th September.

Red-necked Phalarope *Phalaropus lobatus*

A female at Potteric Carr on 18th June (RM) and a juvenile at Blacktoft Sands on 1st September.

Grey Phalarope *Phalaropus fulicarius*

Two flew north at Flamborough on 26th August (PAL).

Pomarine Skua *Stercorarius pomarinus*

Singles at Flamborough on 30th January and Sunk Island on 14th February; in May, at Spurn on 11th and Flamborough the following day.

Autumn passage was recorded along the coast from mid July with, at Flamborough, 58 in August (11 on 31st); 131 in September (71 on 5th) but only 24 in October with 13 on 13th. Peaks at Spurn were 19 on 5th September and, in October, ten on 12th; 30 on 21st then 22 on 22nd. Twelve at Filey on 4th September whilst 14 were off Atwick on 13th.

Two were reported from Flamborough on 12th December with one between the 24th and 27th.

Away from the coast; a single dark bird at Angler's CP on 14th May.

Arctic Skua *Stercorarius parasiticus*

Single at Flamborough on 10th January. A poor spring at all locations then, in autumn, almost daily from early July to late September along the coast with the first big movement on 22nd August when 111 flew south at Whitestone Point; 225 at Filey; 260 at Flamborough and 120 at Spurn. The

following day, 203 were reported from Filey with 72 at Spurn. 233 off Filey on 3rd September then 119 on 4th when 173 were reported from Flamborough. 109 at Atwick on 13th then only small numbers during October excepting 42 off Filey on 21st and 25 at Spurn on 12th. Only four on three days in November at Flamborough, with three there on 12th December. Up to 16 at Sunk Island whilst four were further up stream at Blacktoft Sands on 22nd August.

Inland, two at Pugney's CP on 5th May; one at Southfield Res. on 13th May; one at Fairburn Ings on 25th April with another there on 18th June.

Long-tailed Skua *Stercorarius longicaudus*

A good year at Spurn but only average elsewhere. One at Flamborough on 29th April then a total of 84 birds between 27th July and 27th September. Eleven at Atwick on 13th September when four were recorded off Scarborough with four at Mappleton the following day (flying along the road to Cowden). Four at Filey on 5th September when three were at Spurn whilst three were at Filey on 4th. Singles occasionally at Whitestone Point; Long Nab; Grimston; Beacon Ponds and Homsea.

Two along the Humber at Sunk Island on 11th August whilst inland, an adult at Tophill Low NR on 4th September (HPRB) and, in VC63, an adult flew south west over Angler's CP on 19th July (JMT).

Great Skua *Catharacta skua*

Reported from Flamborough on four days in January with two on 9th then on four days in February; two being seen on both 20th and 28th with three on 21st. No other location recorded birds before May and then only singles.

In autumn; 323 passed Flamborough in August (peak 26 on 31st); 361 in September (98 on 5th) and 80 in October (55 on 13th). Smaller numbers elsewhere along the coast with peaks at Filey of 31 on 24th August; 57 on 14th September with 40 on 26th then 23 on 21st October. 89 off Atwick on 13th September whilst at Spurn, 29 were recorded on 5th September with 17 on 13th and 15 on 26th. 14 were at that location on 13th October and nine the following day. Elsewhere, 22 at Whitestone Point on 5th September on which date nine were at Sunk Island with four there on 14th September.

Mediterranean Gull *Larus melanocephalus*

A second summer individual was reported holding territory in the Black-headed Gull colony at Wheldrake.

Recorded from some 17 locations in VC61; invariably single birds but two at Beacon Ponds on 22nd July with two or three at Withemsea between 31st January and 6th April and three there again on 31st October. Single at Scarborough on 14th October with one or two in the Whitby area during the early months but three adults on 6th February.

In VC63; singles at Angler's CP on five days; three days at Blackmoorfoot Res. (two individuals); three days at Blacktoft Sands; four days at Broomhill Ings (two individuals) and once at Elland GP.

An adult at Eccup Res. during the early months with a second adult on 2nd February plus a second winter bird on 2nd January. Singles at Farnham GP; Newsam Green Tip and Gouthwaite Res. occasionally during these early months. A second winter bird at Fairburn Ings from 27th June to 27th July whilst an adult was at Knostrop SF on 25th July. An adult frequented Eccup Res. during November and December.

The only record from VC65 concerned adults at Bolton-on-Swale on 28th November and between 4th and 14th March.

Little Gull *Larus minutus*

Occasionally recorded along the coast during both winters with small numbers in spring and summer increasing during July. Homsea Mere recorded 29 on 14th July; 46 on 26th then, during August; 115 on 1st; 155 on 6th; 208 on 12th with 202 on 14th September. A total of 112 at Flamborough in August with 21 on 17th then in September 810, 295 of them on 13th. 66 were present there on 14th October. 135 at Atwick on 13th September whilst small numbers were reported from Spurn excepting 100 flying east on 5th October.

Small numbers were reported from several locations in VC63, usually one to three but six at Angler's CP on 6th August; four at Broomhill Ings on 6th April and 17 at Thrybergh CP on 1st April. Scarcer in VC64 excepting light spring passage at Fairburn Ings peaking with nine on 24th April; elsewhere, singles at Swillington Ings on 24th and 25th April with one at Staveley NR on 29th.

One record from VC65; two immatures at Bolton-on-Swale on 13th/14th September.

Sabine's Gull *Larus sabini*

A total of 12 were reported at Flamborough; all excepting one being juveniles; extreme dates being 26th August and 22nd October with three on 28th August. At Filey, an adult on 13th September with two the following day and a juvenile on 26th. Two juveniles off Atwick on 13th September with an adult south at Grimston on 4th. Single birds were reported from Spurn on 14th August and 13th October.

Black-headed Gull *Larus ridibundus*

2000 pairs bred at Wheldrake Ings - a record - whilst further along the Lower Derwent, at North Duffield, 50 pairs bred (this being a new location for this species). 100 pairs at Thorne Moors; 115 at Old Denaby; 30 at Potteric Carr; 30 at Black Moss (Huddersfield); 250 at Fairburn Ings; 3,407 at Barden; 60 at Knostrop SF with single pairs attempting at both Swillington Ings and High Batts NR. No details from Mickleton Ings or Marfield Quarry.

Widespread and abundant outside the breeding season with many gatherings up to 15,000. Counts in excess being 20,500 at Tophill Low NR in November; 20,000 at Swillington Ings in January and 18,000 at Eccup Res. during that same month. 30,000 at Wheldrake Ings on 20th September with 37,000 on 28th. 21,000 at Bolton-on-Swale on 7th February.

Ring-billed Gull *Larus delawarensis*

A first winter individual at Wheldrake Ings on 7th May (RSS: AW). Still under consideration by BBRC.

Common Gull *Larus canus*

Widespread. The largest roosts reported were from VC61 with, at Tophill Low NR, 9,000 in January; 8,000 in March; 16,500 in November (13th) and 15,000 in December. 8,000 at Filey on 19th March whilst 6,700 were reported from Flamborough on 17th January. In VC63, maxima were 1,000 at Angler's CP on 24th January with a similar number present in December. In VC64, Eccup Res. reported 6,500 in January; 4,000 in February; 400 in November and 5,000 in December. 2,500 at Castle Howard in late January was the only count of note in VC62.

Two individuals, considered by plumage characteristics, to be of the race *L.c.heinei*, were at Flamborough on 13th February with singles there on 28th February and 29th December.

Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus*

Approximately 300 pairs bred at Barden but no comments received on success rate. Three pairs bred on roof tops at Whitby.

Only small numbers in the east of the county though becoming more numerous particularly in the Scarborough area. Largest counts in the east were 192 in May and 185 at Sunk island on 19th September. Southerly movement was noted along the River Ouse at Riccall in autumn with a daily maxima of 369 in August. Further west, in VC63, maxima were 2,000 at Langsett on 2nd November; 1,500 at Southfield Res. on 9th October; 1,317 at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 25th July with 1,300 at Flouch Inn on 30th July. Maximum in VC64 was 1,340 at Fairburn Ings on 18th August whilst good numbers were reported from VC65 with peaks of 1,568 at Bolton-on-Swale on 29th July and Masham on 17th September. Numbers continue to increase in this VC.

Of the 620 at Leighton Res. on 31st October some ten percent were considered to be of the race *L.f.intermedius*. Small numbers of this race were noted at many locations whilst birds of the race *L.f.fuscus* were quite scarce, the maxima being four at Tophill Low NR on 4th October and four at Pulfen Bog on 24th April.

Herring Gull *Larus argentatus*

No comments received concerning breeding status.

Peak counts along the coast were 5,050 at Flamborough on 9th January; 3,205 on 28th November; at Filey, 4,240 on 23rd January with 3,000 on 14th November. Lesser numbers further south with 900 moving south off Spurn on 24th January as the maximum.

Inland; up to 6,000 were at Swillington Ings during January; 2,700 at Langsett Res. on 1st January with 2,500 there on 31st December whilst Bolton-on-Swale recorded 2,675 on 24th December.

Birds of the Yellow-legged races are being reported in increasing numbers particularly in autumn though usually only single birds are involved. Two, however, were reported from Redmires Res. on 24th September; two at Bolton-on-Swale/Scorton on 22nd July with three on 15th September. At least 19 individuals were reported from Broomhill Ings between 13th June and 1st November with three on 16th and 26th August; 1st and 7th September.

A very large dark-backed individual was present at Scorton from 17th to 28th November.

Iceland Gull *Larus glaucoideus*

Quite scarce along the coast with four singles in VC62; nine records at Flamborough, all singles excepting two on 28th November; ten records at Filey with one each at Spurn and Hornsea.

Inland, in VC63, a moderate year with some 30 individuals recorded, mainly single birds and of first winter age but two at Angler's CP on 29th January; two again there on 15th and 19th December. Two first winter individuals at Broomhead Res. on 24th and 26th January were also reported from Shirecliffe Tip. An adult and first winter bird at Langsett Res. on 3rd January.

Most records in VC64 were from the Swillington Ings/Newsam Green Tip areas with at least five individuals during the early months. Few elsewhere, the pale adult again at Eccup Res. on 1st January, and very scarce in the latter months but an early bird, in moult, at Fairburn Ings on 16th September.

Only one record from VC65, a second winter individual at Bolton-on-Swale on 1st March.

Glaucous Gull *Larus hyperboreus*

Well distributed with possibly more records from inland than coastal. Reported more frequently during the early months than the latter with, invariably, single birds being involved although some locations reported several different individuals during this early period. In addition, Flamborough reported two on 9th January with three on 13th and two on 21st and three again on 14th February. Two at Swillington Ings/Newsam Green Tip on 13th/14th February whilst two were in the Whitby/Saltwick area on 16th January. Two at Flamborough on 26th December.

Records of individuals were reported from seven locations in VC61; four in VC62; 14 in VC63; four in VC64 and one in VC65.

Great Black-backed Gull *Larus marinus*

Peak counts in VC61 were 1,725 at Flamborough on 9th January with 931 on 28th August; 3,440 on 19th September (a record count for Yorkshire) and 1,790 on 28th November. Lower numbers elsewhere in this VC with peaks of 600 at Spurn on 24th January; 376 at Filey on 23rd January; 600 at Sunk Island on 27th November and up to 1,200 at Tophill Low NR during December. 300 at Long Nab on 3rd September being the peak count in VC62 whilst in VC63, peaks at roosts were 400 at Angler's CP on 24th January; 500 at Southfield Res. on 29th December; up to 400 at Ardsley Res. during both January and December with 294 at Thornton Moor Res. on 31st December and 248 at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 24th December.

Up to 2,000 at Swillington Ings, VC64, in January with 710 at nearby Fairburn Ings on 17th October were by far the largest gatherings in this VC whilst only Bolton-on-Swale, in VC65, with 245 on 5th January and 468 on 24th December, had an appreciable number.

Ross's Gull *Rhodostelia rosea*

An adult to the south at Flamborough on 28th February (PAL) has, as yet, not been submitted to BBRC.

Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla*

The breeding success at Bampton was estimated at 0.94 young fledged per nest site whilst the population was estimated to be down by about 12.5% (RSPB). 1,304 nests were counted on Castle Hill, Scarborough, down about 6% on last year.

Invariably the largest counts were made in the vicinity of Flamborough Head with 16,000 off the head on 3rd April whilst the following day 2,316 passed Filey Brigg in one hour. Small numbers were frequently reported along the Humber with a maximum at Sunk Island of 82 on 4th September and further upstream, 39 at Blacktoft Sands on 26th April.

Inland, one or two birds were reported from 19 locations but four at Clifton Lake on 25th January; six at Farnham GP on 27th February six at Langsett Res. on 8th March; seven at Eccup Res. on 28th April; four at Wheldrake Ings on 1st May with three still present the following day and seven at Fairburn Ings on 13th.

Caspian Tern *Sterna caspia*

One seen occasionally throughout the day at Southfield Res. on 13th May (CF: AS et al). One seen flying up the Humber at Spurn on the evening of 29th July (JC).

Lesser Crested Tern *Sterna bengalensis*

A single bird was seen daily at Beacon Ponds, Easington, between 15th and 20th June (ALD: CD: SD et al), also being reported from Spurn on 18th, flying south and the following day, flying north. What is considered to be the same individual was in a field behind Rose Cottage, Kilnsea, on 22nd July (ALD: CS: JS et al).

Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandvicensis*

The first of the year was at Filey on 15th March followed by one at Spurn on 20th (earliest ever record for the Observatory) with both Sunk Island and Flamborough also reporting birds in March. Spring passage along the coast was light with 40 at Filey on 15th May and 108 at Spurn on 15th June. Higher counts during the autumn though no particularly large gathering away from Spurn where peaks were 2,850 on 9th August; up to 1,200 between 11th and 13th with 2,700 on 19th and 1,050 the following day. Elsewhere, 800 at Flamborough on 12th August; 383 at Filey on 7th August; 772 at Hornsea on 10th and 322 at Sunk Island on 13th. 320 at Spurn on 1st September with 204 at Flamborough on 13th. Stragglers were present into October with eight at Spurn on 9th and the last, a single bird, at Filey on 14th.

Inland, one or two at 12 locations with four at Elland GP on 13th April; five at Southfield Res. on 10th September and six at Fairburn Ings on 16th July with a further three there on 25th.

Roseate Tern *Sterna dougalli*

Single birds were at Flamborough on 20th July, 5th and 10th August and 11th September; at Filey on 7th; 14th; 16th and 28th August; at Spurn on 3rd and 22nd August. Two together at Whitestone Point on 8th May (TJB); two at Beacon Ponds on 22nd and 24th July; two at Filey on 19th and 29th August (AN: CCT: RGH et al) whilst three were at Flamborough on 28th August (PAL).

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*

Seven at Old Denaby on 28th March would appear to be the earliest documented occurrence for Yorkshire. The next was a single at Fairburn Ings on 5th April followed by one at Farnham GP on 10th. The first to be reported from the coast was at Spurn on 18th April whilst by 25th reports had been received from many locations. Spring passage was light though a noticeable influx inland on 13th May with 50 at Southfield Res. and 22 at Tophill Low NR, whilst on 14th, 21 flew east at Fairburn Ings with 16 at Farnham GP, 11 at Scorton and five at Nosterfield. During this period ten were at Swillington Ings on 7th increasing to 12 by 19th.

Breeding occurred at Pugney's CP (four pairs - seven young); Blaxton (three pairs); Broomhill Ings and Worsbrough Res. (one pair - three young at each site); Fairburn Ings (four pairs - seven young); Swillington Ings (six pairs - 16 young) and Farnham GP (four pairs - all failed).

Autumn passage not particularly heavy with coastal maxima of 540 at Spurn on 19th August; 350 at Flamborough on 20th and 100 at Filey on 15th. Fewer in September with peaks of 148 at Flamborough on 13th and 130 at Spurn on 10th.

Additionally, at Spurn, many were not distinguished from Arctic Tern *S. paradisaea*, being lumped as 'commics'; peaks thus reported were 1,100 on 6th August with 3,400 on 9th; 2,680 on 11th and 1,400 on 19th.

Very few recorded inland in autumn whilst the last on the coast were ten at Spurn on 10th October with one on 12th.

Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea*

Singles at Thrybergh CP on 9th April and Filey on 11th then, on 13th, three at Broomhill Ings with singles at Thrybergh CP and Elland GP. Spring passage was generally light with maximum along the coast of 171 at Spurn on 5th May. Inland; six at Angler's CP on 25th April when 20 were at Fairburn Ings; ten at Swillington Ings on 2nd May; seven at Southfield Res. on 6th then, at Fairburn Ings, 20 on 11th with 22 on 13th. 43 flew north at Wheldrake Ings on 17th May. Far fewer inland during the autumn with 11 at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 1st August being the only report of more than four birds.

Maxima along the coast were 185 at Flamborough on 5th August; 127 at Filey on 12th and 95 at Spurn on both 31st July and 9th August. Stragglers were reported into October with three at Spurn on 10th and singles on 13th at Filey, Flamborough, Spurn and inland at Wheldrake Ings.

Little Tern *Sterna albifrons*

The Easington/Beacon Ponds colony continues to flourish under protection with a record 62 pairs present this year. For the third consecutive year the colony was predated by a Merlin; this year arriving on the early date of 1st July. A total of 161 eggs were laid from which only 20 chicks fledged (one clutch falling to human egg thieves). Colour-ringed birds from South Gare (Cleveland); Tetney (Lincolnshire) and Gronant Point (Clwyd) were noted during the season. Two pairs bred at the point at Spurn, one successfully.

The first to arrive were two at Spurn on 20th April with the last two at Spurn on 4th September. Away from the Spurn/Easington area, few were seen with one or two occasionally at Sunk Island, Filey and Flamborough.

Inland, singles at Fairburn Ings on 13th/14th May, 7th and 23rd July; Broomhill Ings on 12th May; Elland GP on 14th May; River Torne (near Doncaster) on 17th/18th July; Blacktoft Sands on 17th June; Angler's CP on 4th July; Southfield Res. on 5th July and Flyflatts Res. on 18th August.

Black Tern *Chlidonias niger*

Spring passage poor with one to three birds at several locations but nine at Mickeltown Ings on 10th May with three on 12th; four at both Southfield Res. and Tophill Low NR on 13th whilst on 14th six at Farnham GP; four at Swillington Ings and seven at Horsea Mere. Five at Blacktoft Sands on 28th.

A little more widespread in autumn but again only small numbers; the main day being 13th September when five were at Hay-a-Park GP (2 adults with three juveniles) and what may have been the same party at Angler's CP, six at both Pugney's CP and Blacktoft Sands. Three at Fairburn Ings the following day when four were at Castle Howard whilst five were at Blacktoft Sands on 18th.

White-winged Black Tern *Chlidonias leucopterus*

A juvenile with five Black Terns at Angler's CP on 13th September was also seen the same day at Swillington Ings (PRM also with five Black Terns. (The six Black Terns also seen on 13th at both Pugney's CP and Blacktoft Sands give rise to thought).

Gullemot *Uria aalge*

The breeding population at Bempton was considered to have increased by 1.6% with 0.80 young fledged per nest site (RSPB).

Large numbers in the vicinity of the breeding cliffs were frequently reported. The only record away from the coast was of a single bird at Sunk Island on 31st July.

Razorbill *Alca torda*

The Bempton breeding population was estimated to have increased by 30.0% on 1992; no details reported of success (RSPB).

As with the previous species large counts were reported from the Filey/Flamborough areas and a single bird was at Sunk Island on 21st May.

Black Guillemot *Cephus grylle*

One at Filey on 22nd/23rd March whilst two flew south at Spurn on 3rd September (this being only the fourth record for the Observatory).

Little Auk *Alle alle*

A poor year with very few along the coast; 16 off Filey on 4th January; 16 at Flamborough on 22nd October with 11 there on 3rd November and four at Holmpton on 22nd.

Singles were reported from the Humber at Sunk Island on 11th April and 16th October.

Puffin *Fratercula arctica*

Breeding population at Bempton Cliffs was estimated to have increased by 20.5% but no details were received on the success of that colony (RSPB).

Large numbers frequently passing Flamborough Head with the peak count being 21,550 on 4th August. Three at Sunk Island on 12th June; one on 19th and two on 3rd July.

Feral Pigeon/Rock Dove *Columba livia*

Widespread; up to 500 at Filey in the early months with 250 in October whilst 1,500 were at Flamborough on 30th January; 1,200 on 7th February and 3,500 on 13th October. The percentage of 'pure-looking' birds at Flamborough would appear to be decreasing.

Stock Dove *Columba oenas*

Status appears to be unchanged though no significant numbers were reported from Nidderdale as in the past. Largest gatherings reported; 250 at Mickletown lngs during November; up to 200 at Leventhorpe Ash Ponds in September and 200 at High Batts NR on 17th December.

Woodpigeon *Columba palumbus*

Status unchanged. Coastal influx in December with 9,000 at Flamborough on 5th; 7,000 in one flock at Filey on 10th with 2,500 off the sea there on 17th. Inland, 4,000 at Bishop Monkton on 28th October; 1,500 at Nosterfield on 22nd November; 7,000 south at Fairburn lngs on 29th November with 2,000 the following day. 1,900 over the Lower Derwent on 29th November.

Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto*

No apparent change in status. Largest gatherings reported being 121 feeding in a field 'north of Beverley' on 8th October and 124 at Eccup Res. in September.

Turtle Dove *Streptopelia turtur*

Appears to be still decreasing in VC64 where birds were only reported from six locations in the Harrogate area and five in the Leeds area whilst breeding was only confirmed at one site though probably did so at a further two. In VC63; reported breeding at Brampton Common (four pairs); Thorpe Marsh (four); Finningley Park (five); Angler's CP (12) and Denaby lngs (two). Scarce in VC61 excepting the Lower Derwent valley where six pairs bred and stated as a scarce and localised species in VC65 with strongholds around the West Tanfield/Nosterfield and Scorton areas.

The first of the year were at Bolton-on-Swale on 20th April then at Thorpe Marsh on 23rd and Catcliffe Flash on 25th. Peak passage was in mid May with 13 at Sunk Island on 17th; Spurn with 50 on 18th when 32 were at Flamborough. A second peak at Spurn on 31st when 46 flew south.

Autumn passage was light with the last, a very late bird, at Stone Creek on 23rd October.

Ring-necked Parakeet *Psittacula krameri*

One at Meltham on 13th January was no doubt an escaped bird.

Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus*

First of the year were on 9th April at Thrybergh CP; Shafton and Grimethorpe then on the following day at Edderthorpe; Worsbrough; Ringstone Edge and Thorne Moor. A 'poor year' at Flamborough and 'fewer than usual in the Leeds area' were the only comments received concerning status. Seven at Sunk Island on 22nd May, the largest gathering. Stragglers noted into September at Tophill Low NR; Flamborough; Spurn and Green Hammerton (30th) whilst singles were at Filey on 4th October and Wheldrake on 15th.

Barn Owl *Tyto alba*

Readily taking to nesting boxes in Holderness and now appears to be increasing in that region with 37 young ringed (32 in 1992). Seven pairs bred along the Lower Derwent valley with breeding also occurring at a further eight locations (five in 1992). No reported breeding locations in VC62 with four in VC63; continues to decline in VC64 with no reported breeding in that area though birds were present at a few previously occupied locations. Very scarce in VC65 with one at Leeming Bar on 20th February.

A captive release programme so far involving 17 birds has been undertaken in the lower Dales; one of these birds being subsequently found dead at Towcester (Northants.).

Little Owl *Athene noctua*

Scarce in VC61 with only confirmed breeding at Laytham and the Lower Derwent valley. In VC62, bred at Hutton Rudby and three locations near York. Quite well distributed in parts of VC63 with 20 pairs in the Huddersfield area (including ten at Penistone) and eight in the Doncaster area; five at Nostell estate and three in the Worsbrough area. Remains widespread in VC64 with no change of status; also no change of status noted from VC65.

Tawny Owl *Strix aluco*

Widespread with no change in status reported, though an increase in road casualties in VC64.

Long-eared Owl *Asio otus*

Bred at Wheldrake Wood (several pairs); Moreby Wood and near Burstwick, in VC61; in VC62, at Naburn whilst in VC63; eight pairs in the Barnsley area (five successful); two pairs at Hatfield Moor; two near Huddersfield, one at Bawtry with no comments from Thorne Moors. A poor year in VC64 with only one definite breeding record. Not reported breeding in VC65.

Few roosts reported and all in VC63, with seven at Denaby Ings on 30th November; up to five in the Rother Valley CP and four at Broomhill Ings in February. Very scarce along the coast in autumn.

Short-eared Owl *Asio flammeus*

Twelve pairs found in the Yorkshire Dales National Park whilst in VC63, bred at six locations in the Barnsley area; three near both Halifax and Huddersfield and may have done so at Blacktoft Sands. Status unchanged in VC64 but breeding success very low. May have bred at Pulfen Bog, VC61.

Outside the breeding season, well distributed along the estuary and coastal areas of VC61 with invariably one or two reported but four at Spurn on 28th September and three occasionally at Sunk Island; Beacon Ponds; Filey and Flamborough. Inland; three at Strines on 25th December and six at Bramham Hall (VC64) on 15th November.

Nightjar *Caprimulgus europaeus*

In VC63, 40 churring males were recorded on Thorne Moors whilst 36 were reported from Hatfield Moors with two pairs in Bawtry Forest. Recorded also from Ewden Beck; Langsett; Wharnccliffe Crags; Hingcliffe Common and the Little Don Valley. Up to six males heard on Skipwith Common, VC61, with good numbers in the forested areas of the North Yorks Moors though no exact details were received.

The first of the year being at Skipwith on 5th May and the last on 21st August, at Flamborough, only the fourth record from that location, whilst one found dead at Filey on 1st August was only the second record there.

Swift *Apus apus*

First of the year was at Fairburn Ings on 20th April with one there the following day when singles were also reported from Carthick Wood and Whitby. On 22nd, one at Southfield Res. with many locations recording birds by the end of the month. Peak counts during May were 1,000 at Pugney's CP on 13th; 1,600 at Fairburn Ings on 15th; 1,200 on 27th and 1,500 on 30th with 1,200 at Tophill Low NR on 14th and 1,300 on 27th. In June, 2,000 at Tophill Low NR on 12th with an exceptional 16,000 at Spurn on 25th whilst 1,600 flew south at Redmires in 30 minutes on 19th.

Several locations reported 1,000+ occasionally in July with larger counts at Spurn of 3,000 on 2nd and 3rd; 6,000 on 8th; 2,500 on 16th and 23rd then 5,000 on 25th. 1,000 there on 3rd August whilst 2,400 were reported from Filey on 8th. Mainly small counts in September then, in October, at Flamborough on 2nd, 3rd and 5th; at Whitby on 4th; Westwick Farm (VC64) on 5th; Knaresborough on 6th; Filey on 9th and Spurn on 15th.

Alpine Swift *Apus melba*

One over Denaby Ings on 31st March (TF).

Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*

No reported change in status. Largest daily counts recorded were from Fairburn Ings where seven or eight were reported on several occasions and six at Pool Paper Mills frequently in June and August. One at Flamborough on 6th March was only the third record from that location.

Bee-eater *Merops apiaster*

One south at Spurn on 3rd June was followed shortly by a further three. One, calling, at Sunk Island on 5th with one seen flying north at Spurn on 8th.

Hoopoe *Upupa epops*

Single at Broomhill Ings on 16th/17th April whilst one at Spurn on 22nd, was seen to fly north being recorded also that same day at Beacon Ponds and Easington. Another at Spurn on 25th also flew north whilst one was reported at Bessingby on 9th May.

Wryneck *Jynx torquilla*

The best spring at Flamborough since 1978 with about 17 birds in May of which 12 were present on 10th then five on 13th; two on 14th and singles on 15th/16th. Not quite the same influx elsewhere but two on Castle Hill, Scarborough on 11th; two at Whitestone Point on 10th; two at Spurn on 11th/12th with two at Filey on 10th/11th.

Well represented also in autumn though only single birds at Flamborough on 14th/15th September; two at Filey on 9th whilst birds were reported at Spurn on most days from 5th to 13th then three on 14th; six on 16th with four the following day and one or two to 21st. Singles also at Whitestone Point; Hawsker and Easington during this month. In October, one at Easington on 1st and Ness Point on 3rd.

One was reported at Escrick on 13th May whilst other inland records concerned one caught by a cat at Bewerly House (VC64) on 17th August; one at Edderthorpe Flash on 18th September and one at Tophill Low NR from 19th to 22nd.

Green Woodpecker *Picus viridis*

No change in status reported though single adults on six dates at Puffin Bog constituted the first records for that location. One at Filey on 8th August was only the tenth occurrence there whilst singles at Spurn on 17th March and 6th October were 11th and 12th records there.

**Great Spotted Woodpecker** *Dendrocopos major*

Widespread and common in suitable areas, particularly in the west, less common in the east. Possible migrants seen on the outer head at Flamborough in October with singles at Spurn on 9th and 10th of that month.

Lesser Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos minor*

No definite breeding records from either VC65 or VC64 (no comments received from VC63) though birds were present at several suitable locations all year. Very scarce east of York with singles occasionally at Skipwith; Nunburnholme and near Malton. Two were feeding in a suburban garden at Hutton Rudby on 10th June.

Addition to the 1992 Report: One at Hornsea Mere on 17th May.

Woodlark *Lullula arborea*

One at Skeffling on 17th February. One present at Spurn from 20th March to 16th April; one again there on 24th October with probably the same bird (heard) on 26th. One near Atwick on 29th with one at Flamborough on 31st; two there on 1st November whilst one flew south at Spurn on 11th.

Skylark *Alauda arvensis*

No change in status reported. Flocks during the early months were generally small with few records of more than 100; 192 present at Filey on 1st January with 170 on 7th whilst 200 were at Dringhouses, York on 1st. Slightly larger counts during the latter months with between 250 and 540 present at Flamborough; 200 to 250 at Filey; 300 at Easington (on 7th November) and 200 at Cromer Point on 23rd November. Inland; 105 at Bolton-on-Swale on 14th November and 300+ at Fairburn Ings on 10th October.

Autumn passage was light with 297 west at Sunk Island on 15th October; 430 south at Spurn on 4th November and 300 on 10th. Up to 200 to the west over the Derwent valley daily during late November.

480 birds were on territory in 120 sq. km. of the Yorkshire Dales National Park.

Shore Lark *Eremophila alpestris*

Seventeen at Staithes on 14th March otherwise only singles during the early months; at Grimston on 9th January; Beacon Ponds on 21st February and Filey on 13th April.

A flock resided in the Filey area from 23rd October to the year's end with up to five in October, 11 by the end of November and 12 by mid December. At Flamborough, one on 23rd October; two on 28th then one on 7th November, whilst Spurn only recorded a single bird from 9th to 12th October. One at Kettleness on 16th October whilst five were present at

Hawsker from 31st October to 6th November. One at Jackson's Bay on 30th November.

Sand Martin *Riparia riparia*

The only comments on breeding were of lower numbers from Scorton Quarry due to loss of suitable habitat and the first breeding occurrence at Tophill Low NR due to the creation of suitable habitat.

The first to arrive were two at Pugney's CP. on 11th March; then Thrybergh CP. and Tophill Low NR on 12th whilst on 13th birds were reported from Broomhill Ings; Southfield Res.; Fairburn Ings; the Lower Derwent Valley NNR and Swillington Ings. Peak spring counts included 550 at Tophill Low NR on 31st May; 500 at Staveley NR on 21st April and 1,000 at Hay-a-Park on 25th.

In autumn; 5,000 roosted at Blacktoft Sands on 21st August with 1,100 feeding at Bolton-on-Swale on 11th July. Maximum of 300 at Fairburn Ings in August is much reduced from the 2-3,000 which regularly roosted there only a few years ago.

Only light passage both along the coast and the Humber.

Last of the year were singles at Tophill Low NR on 19th and Spurn on 26th October.

Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

One at Blacktoft Sands on 24th March was the first followed by one at Ripon on 25th. Birds were reported in March from Fairburn Ings; Swillington Ings; Maltby; Denaby; Thorpe March; Blackmoorfoot Res.; Broomhill Ings and Cromer Point though many areas; particularly in the east; did not report individuals until the second week of April. Spring passage was light excepting at Spurn where peaks were 1,100 on 11th May with 1,750 on 18th and 1,100 on 22nd. Away from the coast the largest gathering reported was 900 at Tophill Low NR on 14th May.

No change in the breeding status reported.

Peaks during the autumn were 1,250 at Flamborough on 29th August; 1,118 west at Sunk Island on 22nd August; 4,100 at Spurn on 29th August with 3,500 on 11th September. A very large roost of 15,000 was reported from the Lower Derwent on 16th September with numbers falling away quickly; 4,000 roosted at Staveley NR on 3rd September; 7,000 at Broomhill Ings on 3rd August and 6,000 on 2nd September whilst 3,000 were at Blacktoft Sands on 21st August.

Late birds were reported from Spurn; Winestead and Scalby Mills on 12th November; Ruswarp on 14th and Filey on 16th.

A hybrid House Martin x Swallow was seen at Angler's CP. on 24th May.

House Martin *Delichon urbica*

Early birds were reported from Pugney's CP. on 31st March; 2nd April at Angler's CP.; Hatfield on 3rd then Thrybergh CP. and Fairburn Ings on 4th. Most areas reported their first birds during the second/third week of the month.

Maxima during the spring were 550 at Spurn on 18th May whilst gatherings at favoured waters peaked at; 700 at Tophill Low NR on 26th May on which date 730 were at Angler's CP. with 400 at Fairburn Ings in 28th but 1,000 at Studley Park on 31st.

No comments were received concerning breeding status.

Peak autumn passage at Spurn was 3,500 on 11th September with 1,200 on 21st; 600 south at Filey on 10th whilst, inland, 600 were at Armthorpe on 20th. Young were still being fed at several locations in mid October whilst the last bird reported was at Filey on 13th November.

Richard's Pipit *Anthus novaeseelandiae*

Singles, in September, at Spurn on 13th and 15th; Flamborough on 18th and at Filey, in October on 2nd. Three were present at Spurn on 14th September with four at Flamborough on 31st October, two of which remained to 2nd November.

Olive-backed Pipit *Anthus hodgsoni*

Singles were reported at Flamborough on 30th September (PAL); 14th October (MRM: RT) and 23rd/24th October (DIMW et al). At Filey on 1st October (PJD: DAR) and from 14th to 16th (AN et al). One at Hawsker on 31st (TJB: RSS).

Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis*

One at Wheldrake Ings on 7th April was followed by singles at both High Batts NR and Flamborough on 10th then on 12th at Broomhill Ings. Spring passage was light with maximum of ten at Flamborough on 13th May.

Still declining in the Leeds area with no proven breeding; no apparent change in status reported from other areas with 45 singing males in the Barnsley area of which 20 were at Winscar.

Better than usual autumnal passage along the coast with between 17 and 26 birds at Spurn between 13th and 16th September; 13 at Flamborough on 15th with 60 there on 25th whilst six were at Filey on 16th. Late birds were three at Flamborough on 13th October when one was at High Batts NR then finally one at Filey on 28th.

Meadow Pipit *Anthus pratensis*

Breeding status apparently unchanged; 2,156 counted in 120 sq. km. of upland area (Dales National Park). The largest gathering reported during the early months was 100 at Knostrop SF in January. Spring passage generally light with 250 at Bolton-on-Swale on 16th March; 240 at Pallet Hill on 28th March; 200 at Gouthwaite Res. on 2nd April and 160 grounded at Spurn on 10th.

Larger counts along the coast in autumn with 200 to 500 daily at Spurn between mid September and mid October where higher counts were 1,500 on 11th September; 2,500 on 18th; 2,600 on 21st with 2,500 on 29th. 900 at Flamborough on 12th and 600 on 19th whilst Filey had 195 on 18th on which date 790 flew west along the Humber at Sunk Island.

Inland, 230 were at Wheldrake Ings on 19th September; 350 south in 2.5 hours at Bolton-on-Swale on 1st October with 200 over Staveley NR on 7th October.

Red-throated Pipit *Anthus cervinus*

Singles at Flamborough on 13th/14th September (PAL et al) and at Spurn on 16th (MB et al) whilst another (or same?) was seen on 18th/19th a mile further south along the peninsula (JH et al).

The Flamborough bird is still under consideration by BBRC.

Rock Pipit *Anthus petrosus*

Breeding status along the coast from Bridlington northwards appears to be unchanged as were numbers along the coast throughout the summer months.

Inland, one or two birds were reported occasionally from seven locations in VC63 and from four in VC64.

Individuals considered on plumage characteristics to be of the Scandinavian race *A.p. littoralis* were reported not infrequently in spring from Flamborough, mainly singles but three on 12th/13th March; five on 21st then four on 20th April. Up to four daily at Filey between 6th and 14th March; four at Comelian Bay on 12th March. Inland, in VC63, one at Pugney's CP. on 9th April with one at Ringstone Edge Res. on 15th March.

Water Pipit *Anthus spinoletta*

Two in full summer plumage at Bank Island (Wheldrake) on 19th May (TED). Singles at Filey on 20th October and Flamborough on 26th/27th November.

Away from the coast; singles were reported in VC63 from Blacktoft Sands between 4th and 12th February and from 25th October to the year's end; at Leeshaw Res. from 21st February to 15th April and at Leecher Res. from 4th to 27th April. In VC64; at least two birds occasionally at Swillington Ings during January, quite regularly in February and through to early April with three on 20th, 27th and 31st March, the last being seen on 11th April. One at Fairburn Ings on 14th March. During the latter months, one at Knostrop SF on 14th and 20th November with one or two from 28th to the year's end at Swillington Ings.

Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava*

The first of the year was at Tophill Low NR on 29th March then at Angler's CP. on 31st. On 3rd April; two at Filey; two at Fairburn Ings with singles at Spurn (earliest ever at that location); Wheldrake

and Denaby. Spring passage generally light with peaks of 60 at Wheldrake on 20th April; 24 at Naburn on 5th May; 25 at Blacktoft Sands on 2nd May and 26 at Bolton-on-Swale on 4th.

Excepting the south Pennines where stated to be very scarce, breeding status would appear to be unchanged. Noted as breeding in potato fields at Bielby.

Peaks during the autumn passage were generally low but 41 at Angle's CP. on 14th September; 40 at Spurn on 15th with 150 south along the Derwent at Wheldrake in three hours on 17th when a further 40 were grounded there. 121 west at Sunk Island on 22nd August. The last of the year being at Flamborough on 11th October.

Individuals of the nominate race (Blue-headed Wagtail) *M.f.flava* were quite widespread along the coast in spring, usually one or two at most locations but up to four at Flamborough occasionally with 11 at Beacon Ponds on 24th April whilst, in autumn, three at Spurn on 14th September. Inland, singles at Tophill Low NR on 14th April and 22nd May; Wheldrake Ings on 13th May; Cliffe on 4th July and at Blacktoft Sands on 6th and 13th May.

Birds of the race *M.f.thunbergi* (Grey-headed Wagtail) were reported in spring from Flamborough with one on 22nd May; Filey on 11th and 23rd May, whilst in autumn, one was at Spurn on 14th September and two at Flamborough on 18th with one still present the following day.

Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*

Bred in VC61 with two pairs along the Pocklington Canal; may also have bred at Tophill Low NR. Reported as having a good year in VC65, otherwise breeding status would appear to be unchanged.

During the winter periods more widespread in VC61 than usual though only one or two birds at most locations. However during the autumn passage, up to five daily at Spurn with nine on 11th September; seven were at Filey on 18th September; six at Flamborough on 10th October and six at Skeffling on 14th. Inland, the maxima reported were ten at Pool Paper Mills on 2nd July with 11 there on 21st August.

Pied Wagtail *Motacilla alba*

Few comments received though considered to be no change in the breeding status.

The only gatherings of note during the early months were at Knostrop SF with up to 150 in January and a peak of 200 on 21st February. Peaks in spring; 60 at Knaresborough SF on 28th March; 80 at Spofforth SF on 4th April with 80 at Wheldrake Ings on 25th April. Autumn saw 150 at Knostrop SF on 22nd August with 130+ at Otley SF on 23rd September. Up to 45 were at both Filey and Flamborough occasionally during this period. No large gatherings were reported during the latter months of the year.

Birds of the nominate race (White Wagtail) *M.a.alba* were widespread in spring, usually up to four birds at most locations but ten reported at Bolton-on-Swale and 13 at Otley GP on 19th.

Waxwing *Bombus garrulus*

Ten in Bradford city centre on 5th January whilst 14 were at Flamborough on 21st March. Two at Thorpe Willoughby on 10th January; three at Fairburn Ings on 17th.

A little more widespread in the latter months with light passage through Flamborough during late October/early November with one to eight birds almost daily. Seventeen at Ravenscar on 27th October whilst four came in off the sea at Spurn on 4th November plus a further two south there that day. Thirty flew northwest at Old Denaby on 11th November when 11 were also in Bradford city centre. One to four occasionally at Whitby; Filey; Tophill Low NR; Grimston; Thrybergh CP.; Sheffield; Branton; Carlton Marsh and Scarborough during November/December.

Dipper *Cinclus cinclus*

Poor breeding season in Farndale, VC62, due to predation, otherwise all received comments indicate no change in status.

Away from the breeding area, one was present occasionally at Weedly Springs (near South Cave VC61) from 22nd July to mid December. One of the continental race (Black-bellied Dipper) *C.c.cinclus*, was present at a small cliff top pond near Holmpton on 23rd/24th October.

Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*

Status apparently unchanged.

Some evidence of passage on the coast in October with 40 at Spurn on 4th and a similar count at Flamborough on 29th.

Dunnock *Prunella modularis*

Breeding status apparently unchanged.

Twenty at Filey on 8th October with 35 at Flamborough on 10th and 40 there on 23rd, no doubt included migrants.

Robin *Erithacus rubecula*

Breeding status unchanged.

Some influx in autumn with 55 at Spurn on 14th September; numbers here increased to 300 by 16th thereafter less than 100 present, whilst 150 were reported at Flamborough on 15th increasing to 240 by 17th thereafter decreasing. During October; 100 at Spurn on 14th then 130 on 23rd when 100 were at Flamborough. Fifty were present at Filey on 3rd.

Nightingale *Luscinia megarhynchos*

The first to return to Thorne Moors was reported on 11th April. Eleven singing males were reported in spring at that location with singles at another location in the Doncaster area between 22nd April and 6th May. One at Potteric Carr on 3rd/4th May. One was singing at Spurn on 25th April.

The only autumn record concerned one at Flamborough on 14th September.

Bluethroat *Luscinia svecica*

An excellent year with, in spring, some six individuals at Spurn between 6th and 21st May whilst 11 were at Flamborough between 9th and 16th. At least ten at Filey from 7th to 26th where four were present on 9th. Single birds were also reported in May at Grimston; Beacon Ponds and Welwick (brought in dead by a cat).

In September, at Spurn, one on 14th and 15th, two on 16th/17th, four on 18th, three on 19th/20th then one on 25th/26th (thought to be at least seven individuals). One at Flamborough on 16th; Kilnsea on 18th whilst in October, singles at Flamborough on 15th and 22nd and at Filey from 16th to 20th with another on 24th.

Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros*

Seven singing males in Sheffield but confirmed as breeding successfully at only one location; two males and a female at Luddenden Dean from 26th April to 3rd June. Single birds occasionally at a further eight inland sites in either April or May.

On the coast; three at Spurn in mid March with four on 31st; up to five on 14th. A total of 25 at Flamborough between 21st March and 22nd May with six on 17th April; seven individuals at Filey during April with one or two occasionally at Atwick; Easington; Scarborough; Whitby; Hunmanby and Sunk Island.

Fewer during the latter months, mainly coastal with one or two individuals being reported though three at Flamborough on 15th September and 1st November; four at Spurn on 28th October with six on 29th/30th.

Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

One at Broomhill lngs on 3rd/4th April, the first of the year, then reported from Spurn on 9th, Filey, Flamborough and Spurn again on 10th. Only light passage noted at Spurn but, in May at Flamborough, 40 on 13th with 44 on 14th and at Filey, 23 on 10th, 29 on 11th and 22 on 12th.

No comments received on breeding status thus assumed to be unchanged.

Autumn saw numbers second only to 1969 with, on 14th September, 40 at Filey; 75 at Flamborough and 200 at Spurn. During the following six days counts peaked at 39 near Whitby (15th); 140 at Filey (16th); 260 at Flamborough (15th); 85 at Atwick (16th); 44 at Grimston (15th); 63 at

Easington (18th) and 500 at Spurn on 16th. By the 20th most had moved on but a small influx noted in early October with 13 at Spurn on 1st and 12 at Flamborough on 3rd.

The last of the year were at Kilnsey in the West Riding on 25th October; Flamborough on 30th and Spurn on 1st November.

Birds considered to be of the race *P.p.samamiscus* were at Hawsker on 16th September (TJB) with two at Flamborough on 17th (PAL et al).

Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra*

One at Newholme Dene (VC63) on 20th April was the first of the year followed by records at Filey and Flamborough on 22nd. By early May, widespread with maxima along the coast on 12th of 35 at Flamborough, 20 at Spurn and 15 at Filey, whilst 12 were at Saltwick the previous day.

Breeding status unchanged excepting in the Bradford area where a decrease was attributed to bracken control. Twenty-eight pairs were located by a survey of the Yorkshire Dales National Park of which 75% were in Coverdale. Located at six sites in the Huddersfield area; four pairs at Winscar; three at Broomhill Ings; ten pairs on Thorne Moors whilst ten individuals were at Grimwith Res. on 8th July.

Autumn passage peaked in mid September with, on 15th, 25 between Whitestone Point and Hawsker and 19 at Flamborough; 28 at Spurn on 16th then, on 17th, 18 at Flamborough; seven at Filey and 35 at Spurn. Twenty-three at Flamborough on 19th. The last of the year being reported from Spurn on 14th October when two were present.

Stonechat *Saxicola torquata*

Quite scarce in the east during both winter periods but a noticeable increase in the wintering population of VC63 in the latter months of the year. In VC63, five at Baildon Moor on 12th September; three at Withens Clough on 16th October; seven at Deer Hill on 14th October; four at Scammonden between 14th October and 7th November; seven at Broomhill Ings between 10th October and 30th December. Five were at Whetstone (VC64) on 24th September.

Breeding reported from Langsfield Common (Halifax); Ampleforth (VC62) where two broods (of two and three) were produced whilst a pair held territory at Dardale (VC62).

A male with the characteristics of the race *S.t.rubicola* was trapped at Spurn on 10th April.

Individuals attributed to one of the eastern races ('Siberian' Stonechat) *S.t.maura/stejnegeri*, were reported from Spurn with a 1st winter/female bird from 14th to 17th September (MLD: JMc et al); a 1st winter/female at Kilnsea from 24th to 31st October (TC: LJD: NPW et al). A 1st winter/female at Kilnsea from 15th to 19th October was thought to have been the Spurn individual of 14th (LJD et al)

One present at Flamborough on 2nd/3rd November (JMc). An adult male at Saltwick Nab from 10th to 13th May (TJB et al).

Addition to 1991 Report: 1st winter/female at Kettleness Point from 12th to 27th October (TJB: RSS: AW).

Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe*

One at Whetstone Gate (Bradford) on 12th March then two at Spurn on 13th when one was at Grimworth Dene; Digley and Barden Moor on 14th. Quite widespread by the end of the month. Passage along the coast in late April with 46 at Flamborough on 24th when 23 were at Filey and 14 at Spurn.

In May, more noticeable passage with, at Flamborough, 80 on 11th, 135 on 12th and 123 on 13th; at Filey, 22 on 10th and 30 on 12th. Nineteen were reported at Spurn on 10th with 30 on 12th whilst 17 were at Easington on 13th.

Very few birds of the Greenland race *O.o.leucorroha* were reported with maxima of ten at Broomhill Ings on 24th April and seven at Flamborough on 15th May.



Breeding status would appear to be unchanged - 31 pairs were located by the survey of the Yorkshire Dales National Park.

The main autumn passage occurred in mid September when on 14th, 55 were at Spurn; 35 at Grimston; 61 at Filey and 40+ at Long Nab; on 15th, Whitestone Point recorded 94; Hawsker 69, Kettlewell 15; Filey 51; Flamborough 205 then on 16th; 80 at Filey (location record) with 105 at Spurn whilst on 17th 130 were at Flamborough then on 18th, 80 at Spurn, with 45 on 19th at Filey and 80 at Spurn on 20th.

Inland only small numbers reported but 22 at Flyflatts Res. on 14th August.

Few along the coast in October then late birds in November at Leventhorpe Ash Ponds on 6th; Flamborough on 1st, 2nd and 7th.

Ring Ouzel *Turdus torquatus*

Breeding status would appear to be unchanged; a total of 34 pairs were located by the survey of the Yorkshire Dales National Park.

The first to be reported were at Greave Clough; Widdop and Loxley Chase on 21st March then on Thornton Moor on 24th. Spring passage was generally light though nine were at Flamborough on 13th May whilst in autumn 11 were reported from Spurn on 27th September and 22 on 13th October when seven were at Flamborough and 28 at Sunk Island with 20 in the Easington/Kilnsea area.

Inland, eight flew west at Redmires on 18th September with seven at Paul Clough, Oxenhope on 20th then five on Strines Top on 4th October with four on 10th. The last of the year being on 4th November at Skeffling.

Blackbird *Turdus merula*

No changes in status apparent.

Noticeable influx in late October with 1,000 at Flamborough on 22nd when 245 were at Filey; on 23rd, 2,000 at Spurn with 1,200 at Flamborough. 1,000 at Spurn on 24th thence up to 600 present there until the month's end. Similar counts during early November but 1,200 on 6th.

Fieldfare *Turdus pilaris*

A large influx occurred on the coast on 30th January with 2,500 at Spurn; 520 at Easington and 570 at Flamborough. This influx was reported also inland; at Wheldrake where 2,000 were present on 1st February and possibly the 500 at High Batts NR on 7th.

Spring passage was noted at many locations with the largest counts being 1,000 at Givendale on 12th March; 1,650 on 15th at Thornton Moor Res. with 1,350 there on 18th; 700 at Carthick Wood on 10th April and 970 at Sunk Island on 11th. Stragglers were reported from several areas until mid May then one at Spurn on 5th June with another also there from 19th June to 8th July. A flock of 50 in Swaledale on 18th July continues an intriguing series of mid summer records from the Dales. Also of conjecture was a juvenile at Tophill Low NR on 18th August.

The first returning bird was noted at Redmires Res. on 29th August with the next at Treton Dyke on 4th September. Immigration in October was heavy at times with 1,060 west at Sunk Island on 12th then 4,570 there the following day. This was not recorded at Spurn though 3,200 passed west at Wheldrake on 13th. On 14th, 4,515 flew west over Strines Top with 1,450 at Ewden Beck. On 20th, 2,500 present at Staveley NR with a further 3,500 passing west there; 1,800 at Flamborough on 22nd when 2,000 were at Wheldrake whilst on 23rd, 200 at Flamborough and 3,000 at Fairburn Ings. 4,500 at Wheldrake on 28th, then on 31st, 1,300 at Tophill Low NR. In November, numbers in the Lower Derwent increased to a peak of 15,000 on 2nd and 6th decreasing to 3,000 by the end of the month whilst 5,000 were on Thorne Moors on 6th with 2,500 at Sunk Island and 1,200 at Spurn. 2,500 at Broomhill Ings on 22nd thereafter all records were of less than 1,000 excepting 1,250 at Haverah Park on 26th December.

An albino at Deers Hill on 6th December with a partial albino at Denaby Ings on 19th October.

Song Thrush *Turdus philomelos*

Noted as particularly scarce in VC65 and considered to be still declining in the York Ornithological Club recording area. No comments received from other areas.

An influx noted in October with, at Spum, 110 on 9th, 130 on 12th, 210 on 13th, 250 on 14th then 180 on 15th and 150 on 23rd. At Filey, 60 were present on 3rd with 110 on 9th whilst Flamborough had 300 on 1st and 400 on 22nd. 300 at Easington on 13th. At Sunk Island, 40 were counted on 14th with 50 the following day - none being reported from this location during spring or summer.

Redwing *Turdus iliacus*

Gatherings during the early months were small with maxima of 600 at Temple Newsam on 12th January; 400 near Bilton Hall on 6th February and 300+ at Tillmire on 16th.

Spring passage was generally light excepting 900 over Spum on 15th March and 1,200 at Ripon Parks on 17th. Two at Spum on 29th May being the last.

A single bird summered at Elm Hagg (Byland Abbey), VC62, being seen on several occasions between 1st June and 14th August.

The first of the autumn were at both Spum and Filey on 13th September with the main influx occurring in mid October; maxima reported being; 10th - 1,170 at Flamborough; 1,600 at Strines Top and 1,070 at Redmires; on 13th, a massive 15,260 west at Sunk Island (only 700 at Spum) with 1,000 at Easington; 1,000 at High Batts NR; 2,500 over Westwick Farm (VC64) and 5,350 over Staveley NR whilst 2,000 were present in the Lower Derwent valley. 4,900 northwest over Strines Top on 14th with 3,750 there the following day. An influx of 3,000 at Flamborough on 22nd October with 2,500 on 23rd not being reported elsewhere whilst numbers along the Lower Derwent stood at 2,000 on 28th but increased to 7,000 between 2nd and 6th November declining to 1,000 by the month's end. 1,400 passed west at Sunk Island on 6th. No large gatherings in December.

Mistle Thrush *Turdus viscivorus*

Scarce in the east though no apparent changes in status. Almost all records concern post-breeding flocks; the largest of which were; in VC61, 31 at Tophill Low NR on 5th December; 58 at Ellerton on 17th July with 70 at Sutton Ings on 16th September. Up to 25 at Hutton-le-Hole (VC62) during the late summer whilst in VC63; 70+ at Micklethwaite Hill (Bradford); 46 at Shibden on 28th August and 56 at Angler's CP. on 30th June. In VC64; 50 near Scar House Res. on 15th August with 45 at Micketown Ings on 22nd October.

Cetti's Warbler *Cettia cetti*

One, singing, at Flamborough on 11th May (JCL) constituted the first record for that location and the seventh for Yorkshire.

Grasshopper Warbler *Locustella naevia*

No records forthcoming from Cowden Range where formerly well distributed. Probably bred at Filey and near Wheldrake. Reeling birds were reported from a further three locations in VC61. Reeling reported at three locations in VC62, whilst in VC63, one brood seen at Broomhill Ings; three reeling at Thorpe Marsh at the end of May; eight reeling at Thome Moors on 22nd April and up to six at Blacktoft Sands in May/June. Five pairs known to have bred at Fairburn Ings (VC64) with suspected breeding occurring at Staveley NR (two pairs); Swillington Ings (two); Micketown Ings and Great Preston (one each).

The first of the year was recorded on 16th April at Swillington Ings with the last at both Filey and Spum on 17th September.

Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

Breeding numbers down slightly at Pulfin Bog and Flamborough (localised drying out of reed beds) but increased at Fairburn Ings otherwise no apparent change in status. Continues to colonise oil-seed rape fields in parts of VC65. Some 90 singing males at Blacktoft Sands; 55 at Fairburn Ings; 48 along the Lower Derwent valley; 30 at Pugney's CP. with 28 at Pulfin Bog and 26 at Tophill Low NR. Smaller numbers reported from many locations.

The first of the year was on 8th April at Pugney's CP. then on 10th at High Batts NR and 11th at Thorpe Marsh, whilst the last was at Wheldrake Ings on 21st October though an over-wintering individual was reported at Elland GP between 11th and 23rd December.

Marsh Warbler *Acrocephalus palustris*

One, singing, at Spurn on 27th and 28th May. One, singing and trapped at Beacon Ponds, Kilnsea, on 6th June was present the following day.

Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

Well distributed; an increase in males holding territory at Fairburn Ings otherwise with no further comments received, assumed that status is unchanged.

Many locations reported up to 20 pairs with 25 along the Lower Derwent valley and c.350 at Blacktoft Sands whilst no details were received from Homsea Mere. Two pairs at Seamer, the most northerly in the county whilst a pair probably bred at nearby Wykeham Carr.

The first to arrive were on 18th April at Angler's CP. and Wheldrake Ings then on 19th at Pugney's CP. Last were at Easington and Flamborough on 23rd October.

Single birds trapped at Kilnsea on 18th September, remaining to 19th and at Flamborough on 20th were attributed to the eastern race *A.s.fuscus*.

Great Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus arundinaceus*

One, singing, at Flamborough on 27th May (AMA: AG: JCL) was the first record for that location.

Booted Warbler *Hippolais caligata*

One, a first winter individual, trapped at Flamborough on 7th September, being the first record for that location (DH: JMP: PJW et al). One, trapped at Spurn, on 16th and still present the following day, constituted the fourth record for the observatory (BRS: DJB: LJD et al). This bird was re-trapped at Watteren, central Belgium, on 5th October. One at Filey on 18th and 19th September (CCT et al) being the first record for that location. The eight to tenth records for Yorkshire.

Icterine Warbler *Hippolais icterina*

A good year with singles in spring at Filey on 10th/11th May then at Flamborough on 14th and 27th with two there on 28th.

One of the best autumns for some years with one at Scarborough on 17th September; at least three at Filey, where one was present on 15th September with three on 17th and one on 18th/19th. Estimated to have been six at Flamborough during this period with one on 14th/15th; three on 17th; two on 18th then one on 19th to 21st. Frequent at Spurn with one on 27th August then, in September, two on 13th; three on 14th and 15th; five on 16th; two, at least, on 17th; one on 18th and two on 19th. It is considered that there were at least nine individuals involved at Spurn.

Subalpine Warbler *Sylvia cantillans*

A male at Spurn, seen briefly, on 28th September, was seen again the following day. It was considered to show features of the south eastern race *S.c.albistriata* (AA: DJS: IDW et al).

Sardinian Warbler *Sylvia melanocephala*

A first summer male, trapped at Filey, from 27th June to 27th July, then again from 5th September to 16th October when it had moulted into full adult plumage. (SC: PJD: PMS et al).



Barred Warbler *Sylvia nisoria*

One at Haverfield Ponds on 16th August then during September, singles at Filey on 14th/15th; two on 17th then one on 18th. At Flamborough, singles on 13th, 15th and 17th September with three on 14th. Singles at Kilnsea on 15th September, at Beacon Ponds on 16th and Easington on 18th. Spum had single birds on 9th, 11th, 13th to 15th September (may have been the same individual); three on 17th; two on 18th and one on 19th. In October, singles at Flamborough on 10th and 13th with one at Jackson's Bay on the latter date.

Lesser Whitethroat *Sylvia curruca*

The first reported was from Hatfield on 3rd April then on 5th in the Shirebrook valley and on 10th at Fairburn Ings and Flamborough, becoming well distributed by late April. Spring passage was slight with up to seven at Spum in May and 15 at Flamborough on 15th.

Thirteen males were present at Angler's CP. throughout the breeding season; comments received from VC63 were at variance being described as "widespread" in the Doncaster area though "some evidence of decline" from the Sheffield area. "Thinly distributed but widely reported" from the lowlands of VC64 with reasonable breeding success. Ten pairs were reported at Latham in VC61.

Autumn passage unusual with maxima of eight at Beacon Ponds on 15th August and, at Spum, 14 on 28th August and 12 on 16th/17th September. The last of the year were at Spum and Flamborough on 1st November.

Individuals of the eastern race *S.c.blythi* were reported at Flamborough on 16th/17th and 5th/6th October, totalling three birds; two being trapped whilst two were at Spum on 29th October.

Whitethroat *Sylvia communis*

The first were reported on 10th and 12th April, at Fairburn Ings, then on 17th at Spum, Flamborough, Sunk Island, Angler's CP. and Thorpe Marsh. In spring, up to 15 daily at Flamborough with 14 at Spum on 24th April, whilst 19 were there on 1st May increasing to 39 by 28th.

Few comments on breeding status; "good numbers" - Flamborough; "many pairs" - Lower Derwent; "near normal breeding season" - VC64 and "36 singing males" - Angler's CP.

Autumn passage light with maxima of 15 at Spum; ten at Flamborough and five at Filey. Late birds were reported from Hay-a-Park on 3rd October when singles were also at Puffin Bog and Tophill Low NR with the last being at Flamborough on 29th.

Garden Warbler *Sylvia borin*

A single bird at Wass on 21st April was the first of the year then, on 24th, three were reported from the Lower Derwent valley and one at Sprotborough Flash. The main arrival being in early May with nowhere reporting any numbers.

"A good breeding season" - VC64; "with more than usual in the Harrogate area"; "excellent numbers in Bishop Wood" - near Selby and "high population" at Wykeham Carr - VC62. No other comments but 15 singling males at Angler's CP. and 17 between Halifax and Sowerby Bridge.

Autumn passage light with 14 to 17 daily at Spum between 13th and 17th September; 15 at Flamborough on 15th whilst 20 were at Filey on 17th. The last of the year was at Spum on 30th October.

Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*

The habit of over-wintering would appear to be increasing with a total of 44 individuals reported from 30 locations in VC63; more frequent in VC64, particularly in the north Leeds and Harrogate areas. However, few records from the York area whilst the occurrence is rare towards the coast with only Filey and Skeffling reporting birds.

Notwithstanding wintering birds, the first migrants arrived between 4th and 15th April with passage along the coast light - 15 at Filey on 11th May being the maximum reported.

No change in breeding status reported.

Coastal passage in autumn showed two distinct peaks with 45 at Spum

on 17th September when 12 at Flamborough then, in October, 35 at Spurn on 13th with 45 there from 14th to 17th; 14 at Filey on 16th October when 21 were at Flamborough though 25 were at this last location on 1st with 17 at Filey on 3rd. In November, 14 at Flamborough on 1st; 12 at Filey on 4th and 11 at Spurn on 7th. During this month an influx was noted in the Sheffield area with a total of 24 at 16 locations whilst in the Doncaster area, 13 were at eight locations. Fewer records of wintering birds in December than during the early months.

Arctic Warbler *Phylloscopus borealis*

One at Filey Dams on 23rd October was rather late in the year for this species. (DBY: RC et al). The first record for this location.

Pallas's Warbler *Phylloscopus proregulus*

Singles at Spurn in October, on 12th then from 28th to 30th and in November on 1st and from 7th to 9th. One between Sandsend and Goldsborough on 23rd October (TJB: RSS) and one at Flamborough on 29th/30th October (DH: PAL: MN PJW et al).

Yellow-browed Warbler *Phylloscopus inornatus*

A total estimated at 18 were recorded at Flamborough between 14th September and 5th November with three on 24th and 26th October. One or two at Filey on 13 days between 10th September and 16th October whilst at Spurn, a total of seven were recorded between 22nd September and 22nd October. Singles were reported from Whitby on 30th September; Hawsker on 2nd/3rd October; Scarborough Castle Hill on 13th and 29th September, and 7th October; Easington on 20th, 25th and 30th September; Beacon Ponds on 18th/19th September; Kilnsea on 18th, 24th and 30th September and 18th and 21st October and finally at Skeffling on 24th October.

Inland, individuals were recorded at Blacktoft Sands on 29th/30th September; Broomhill Ings on 1st October; Patrington on 3rd October; Highfields (Doncaster) on 6th and Bessacarr on 9th October.

An individual trapped at Flamborough and present from 5th to 8th November was of the race *P.i.humei*.

Radde's Warbler *Phylloscopus schwarzi*

One at Flamborough on 22nd October (MS & Mrs SB: PEK et al).

Addition to the 1990 Report: One at Grimston on 19th October (AI: TI).

Dusky Warbler *Phylloscopus fuscatus*

Singles were reported from Filey on 23rd October (REH: CCT et al) and Flamborough from 2nd to 8th November (JMP: PAL et al).

Wood Warbler *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*

Slightly conflicting reports; noted as "scarcer at most breeding sites" in VC65; "a poor year with most areas reporting a big drop in records" - VC64; "down from nine to six pairs in the Ewden valley" - VC63; whilst "evidently a good breeding season for this species in Farndale" in VC62.

One at Poppleton, York on 16th April was the first of the year then at Broomhead Wood the following day. Ten were at Bolton Abbey on 3rd May with 13 in the Hebden Bridge area in early June.

The last reported inland were in early July but along the coast, two at Kilnsea on 10th August; two at Flamborough on 6th September and two at Filey on 18th with the last one there on 20th.

Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*

The only over-wintering birds reported were singles in the Knaresborough and Harrogate area.

The first 'considered' to be migrants were at Adel on 8th March then on 12th at both Angler's CP. and Bank Island with an influx into the Doncaster area on 13th. Spring passage normal with maxima of 31 at Spurn on 12th April then up to 24 until 15th whilst, at Flamborough, 19 were reported on 12th April.

Good numbers were recorded at Flamborough in mid September with 57 on 14th, 150 on 15th then 85 on 17th; reflected at Filey with 25 on 16th though not so evident at Spurn where the maximum was 15 on 14th September.

Many locations reported birds into early November whilst in December, singles were at Blacktoft Sands (to the year's end); Burniston on 5th; Wheldrake to 27th; Dowley Gap (Bradford) from 25th to 1994; Tophill Low NR on 26th and Fairburn Ings from 20th to 28th.

Individuals of the race *P.c.tristis* were reported from several coastal locations with four at Flamborough on both 28th and 30th October and 11 there on 6th November. Several at Easington with maximum of five on 29th October. Birds of this race were also reported inland in VC63 with one trapped at Harthill Res. on 16th October whilst the over-wintering birds at Blacktoft Sands and Bradford were considered to be of this race.

Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus*

Varying comments concerning status were received; "unusually scarce" in VC65; "a good breeding season" - VC64; "below average number" - Angler's CP.; "larger numbers than usual" from the Lower Derwent valley.

Reported in March from Blacktoft Sands, on 28th; Denaby on 30th and Angler's CP. on 31st. Most locations recorded birds by 10th April.

Spring passage peaked with 32 at Flamborough on 24th April and 30 at Spurn the following day; a second slightly lower peak in mid May when 25 were at Flamborough on 12th and 20 at Spurn on 14th. An influx was noted inland during the third week of April with 25 at Broomhill Ings and 40 at Thorpe Marsh.

Large fall noted on the coast in mid September with, on 15th, 30 at Easington when 240 were also at Flamborough; 20+ on Scarborough Castle Hill on 16th with 120 at Spurn on 17th and 40 at Filey that day.

Late birds were reported from Spurn on 23rd October and Flamborough on 28th October and 7th November.

Individuals considered attributable to the race *P.t.acredula* were reported at Flamborough with two on 13th and 15th May then another on 11th October.

Goldcrest *Regulus regulus*

No apparent change in breeding status.

Only small numbers recorded during spring along the coast with 140 at Spurn on 13th April. During autumn, a small influx reported in late September peaking with 75 at Filey on 22nd; 105 at Spurn on 28th and 80 at Flamborough on 29th increasing to 200 on 1st October. A second influx occurred in late October with 350 at Spurn on 22nd when 75 at Filey then 650 at Spurn on 23rd and 300 at Flamborough. One hundred plus at Skeffling on 24th with 50 there the following day.

Away from the coast, few large gatherings were reported but 50 at Ampleforth in February; 70+ at Allerthorpe Common during May; 50 at Ampleforth in October and 100+ at Askham Bog in November. Forty to fifty were at Tophill Low NR between late September and early November.

Firecrest *Regulus ignicapillus*

A good year. In the early months, three at Spurn on 21st March with two on 27th and one remaining to 28th. Another on 31st to 4th April with a second individual on 3rd. One on 9th/10th with two on 11th then one on 3rd May. Elsewhere, in March, one at Filey on 13th; East Newton on 16th/17th and Kilnsea on 21st with one at Flamborough from 15th to 19th April.

During the latter months, Spurn had birds on 12th, 22nd, 26th, 27th and 30th September and 7th November. Kilnsea on 1st, 4th, 5th, 7th and 10th November; Easington on 30th September whilst both Holmpton and Skeffling recorded singles on 7th November. Singles at Flamborough on 8th, 11th, 15th and 18th September; a total of seven during October then one or two on eight days in November to 21st. Filey recorded singles on 9th, 28th and 29th September with two on 31st October.

Recorded inland at Booth Wood Clough (VC63) on 27th February; Bessacarr on 4th April and 2nd June. During the latter months an influx was reported with records in VC63 from Armthorpe on 16th/17th November; Elland GP from 21st November to the year's end; Pugney's CP. on 26th

November; Angler's CP. with two from 26th November remaining into 1994; one at Potteric Carr from 28th November until 4th December. One at Fairburn Ings (VC64) from 4th December to year's end with possibly a second bird on 11th. In VC61, one at Tophill Low NR on 31st October, 21st November and 13th December (possibly the same bird).

Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata*

No comments received concerning breeding status excepting c.50 pairs in the Wilsic area near Doncaster which would appear to be a healthy population.

One Strid Woods (Bolton Abbey) on 22nd April was the first with the next on 27th at Wheldrake Ings. Only light coastal passage with maxima in May of eight at Spurn; seven at Flamborough and five at Filey.

Autumn passage along the coast peaked in mid September with 60 at Flamborough on 15th and 22 on 17th whilst Filey reported 22 on 17th; Easington, 17 on 18th and Spurn 24 on 14th with 23 on 18th. The last of the year were three at Easington on 13th October with singles there on 16th/17th.

Red-breasted Flycatcher *Ficedula parva*

Only reported in autumn with singles at Spurn on 14th, 17th and 25th September and 18th October which was probably the same bird seen on 26th. Two were present on 15th September. Elsewhere along the coast; singles in September at Filey on 17th; Flamborough on 16th/17th and 19th. In October; at least five between 3rd and 19th at Flamborough with singles at Easington on 17th and Kilnsea on 31st. Two were present at Flamborough on 31st October.

Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca*

The first of the year were reported on 14th April at Langsett, near Huddersfield and Strid Woods being widespread at all breeding locations by the end of the month. Coastal passage in spring was noteworthy with record numbers at Spurn, where 14 were present on 11th May and 18 on 12th; 12 on 13th and ten on 15th. At Flamborough; 11 on 10th then 22 on 11th/12th with 14 on 13th and seven on 15th whilst Filey had eight on 11th with seven the following day.

Status generally unchanged but thought to be increasing in VC65 mainly due to the provision of nest boxes.

Good autumn passage on the coast where peaks reported were 18 at Flamborough on 14th September with 100 the following day but only 26 on 16th then 55 on 17th and 35 on 18th. Filey had 30 on 17th whilst 14 were at Grimston on 14th with ten at Easington on 18th. At Spurn, ten on 13th had increased to 35 on 14th decreasing to 21 by 16th. Late birds were at Spurn on 4th October (two) then at Flamborough on 13th (two) and 17th.

Bearded Tit *Panurus biarmicus*

Estimated 40 pairs bred at Blacktoft Sands where some 400 were present in post breeding flocks during August/September with some 150 over-wintering.

Away from this breeding area, a pair present at Old Denaby on 25th October had been colour ringed at Blacktoft Sands in 1992. A female was reported on Thorne Moors on 29th December. In VC61 one at Wheldrake Ings on 7th March with a male plus female/immature on 22nd/23rd October, the latter remaining until 28th. One at Homsea Mere on 4th April; one at Haverfield Ponds on 27th October may have been the bird seen at Spurn on 30th. A pair at Hay-a-Park (VC64) on 7th November with a pair present at Staveley NR from 26th to 31st December.

Long-tailed Tit *Aegithalos caudatus*

No change in breeding status but an increase in both numbers and occurrences of birds visiting garden feeding stations was noted on several areas.

Flocks during the winter months were widespread with the largest gatherings being 80 at High Batts NR on 3rd January; 70 at Tophill Low NR on 31st October; 60 at Bishop's Wood (Selby) on 18th December and 60 at Lindley Wood Res. on 2nd November.

Marsh Tit *Parus palustris*

Scarce in the east with records occasionally from near Scarborough in January and April. Small numbers along the edge of the Wolds and the Derwent valley/York area. In VC63, only two records from the Bradford area; none from Huddersfield whilst in the Doncaster area, where the species is considered to be under recorded, five at Roche Abbey on 21st March with two at Wilsic in November. Very scarce in VC64 west of Leeds; reported from 27 locations around Harrogate but only a few isolated records from the Dales. Twenty were at High Batts NR on 1st August whilst one was at Malham Tarn on 1st January (may have been the bird seen in 1992). Much more common in VC65 than Willow Tit.

The general consensus is that status would be unchanged.

Willow Tit *Parus montanus*

Scarce in the east, breeds in small numbers towards the Wolds and in VC62 being reasonably common near Castle Howard. Six pairs at Angler's CP. (VC63), with 20 breeding records from ten locations near Doncaster whilst definite breeding occurred at three near Huddersfield and two near Sheffield. The decline continues in VC64 with only four breeding records (lack of coverage?). Scarcer and more localised than Marsh Tit in VC65. the only significant numbers being in the Ellerton/Great Langton areas.

Coal Tit *Parus ater*

Distribution and status would appear to be unchanged. Very few flocks reported with ten near Castle Howard on 15th October and 18 at Fairburn Ings on 6th December being the largest.

Individuals considered to be of the continental race *P.a.ater* were occasionally reported at Flamborough in the autumn.

Blue Tit *Parus caeruleus*

Status unchanged; widespread and common. The largest parties/gatherings reported were 100 at Eccup Res. on 23rd June and c.84 at Fairburn Ings on 3rd October.

Immigration was noted on the coast in autumn with 100 at Flamborough on 2nd October; 60 at Filey on 3rd; 30 at Spurn on 18th and 50 at Flamborough on 24th.

Great Tit *Parus major*

Status unchanged.

Some immigration evident along the coast with up to 30 at Flamborough during October; 40 at Filey on 3rd and 15 at Spurn on 15th.

Nuthatch *Sitta europaea*

No apparent change in status.

Scarce in VC61. Two at Thornton Ellers on 18th September with one at Wheldrake Ings on 24th November being only the fourth and fifth records for the Lower Derwent Valley NNR. One present at Flamborough on 3rd May being the second record for that location whilst the bird at Angler's CP. (VC63) on 13th July was only the third for that site.

Treecreeper *Certhia familiaris*

Status apparently unchanged.

A slight increase along the coast during October with eight at Flamborough on 2nd and six at Filey on 16th.

Individuals considered to be of the continental race *C.f.familiaris* were reported from Flamborough on 24th and 28th October and 5th December, also from Grimston on 12th December into 1994.

Golden Oriole *Oriolus oriolus*

Recorded at Spurn on 20th, 21st, 23rd, 28th and 19th May and 5th June. One at Kilnsea on 3rd June. Inland, a male at Allerton Bywater on 1st June and a female at Storwood on 29th August.

Red-backed Shrike *Lanius collurio*

In spring, a female at Spurn on 28th May with a pair on 29th then a male on 1st June. Males at Flamborough on 11th, 15th/16th and 29th May; female at Whitestone Point on 22nd May and one at Kilnsea on 28th May. Away from the coast, females near Keyingham on 22nd May and at Stone Creek on 5th June.

In autumn, one at Spurn on 8th September with four on 9th, two on 10th, one on 11th then two on 13th, one of which remained until 21st - all were juveniles. Juveniles were at Grimston on 9th; Easington on 18th; Flamborough on 11th and 14th; Filey on 10th/11th, 18th to 21st with a second bird on 21st then one on 3rd October. Juveniles at Scarborough on 16th October; Whitby from 18th to 22nd September and near Ruswarp on 3rd October.

Great Grey Shrike *Lanius excubitor*

A very poor year. One taken by a Sparrowhawk in March (no date) at Heslington Tilmire. One at Dob Park between 17th and 21st April.

In autumn, one at Spurn on 17th/18th September; at Flamborough on 30th October; Filey on 3rd November whilst inland, one at Timble Ings from 27th October to the end of November whilst another was at Tophill Low NR on 17th November.

Jay *Garrulus glandarius*

A definite increase in resident birds in the Leeds area with parties of four to six not uncommon whilst eight were at Westwick on 24th September. Larger than usual numbers were reported along the Lower Derwent valley during spring with breeding a possibility.

Autumn influx noted particularly in the southwest where a marked westerly passage was recorded for the first time since 1983. Five were at Thrybergh CP. on 31st August thereafter a total of c.350 were reported during September/October. Lesser counts at Broomhill Ings with 40 west between 11th September and 2nd October; ten at Redmires on 11th September then 138 west between 18th and 25th with 72 on 21st. Seventeen west at Blacktoft Sands on 4th October. This influx was reflected in VC64 to a lesser extent with maxima at Fairburn Ings of 11 south on 18th September; ten on both 20th and 21st with 14 on 28th. One at Malham Tarn from 30th October to 7th November was only the fourth to be recorded there. Small numbers along the coast with one to three at most locations, all during October.

Magpie *Pica pica*

Would appear to be increasing though absent completely in areas where confection with shooting/game interests occur (e.g. Atwick).

The Glenhow Valley Woods (Leeds) roost held large numbers during both winter periods with a maximum of 255 on 14th December. No other counts in VC64 in excess of the 60+ at Esholt SF in January. Sixty-four at Riccall on 5th March whilst many locations reported 30 to 40 on occasions. The largest counts in the east were 40 at Filey on 19th September; 39 at Pulfin Bog in November with 38 near Burniston, Scarborough on 14th December.

Jackdaw *Corvus monedula*

Status would appear to be unchanged. Large gatherings/roosts were widespread during both winter periods with maxima of c.3,200 in a mixed *corvid* roost at Scorton on 20th November; 2,200 at Chelker Res. on 2nd January and 2,000 at Tophill Low NR on 27th November.

Small numbers of migrants noted at Flamborough during spring, some of which were considered to be of the nominate race *C.m.monedula*.

Rook *Corvus frugilegus*

Few comments received thus status assumed to be unchanged. The largest gatherings noted were 3,000 at Melbourne on 10th January with 2,000 at Mackershaw on 15th January, Escrick on 15th September, Byland Abbey on 13th November and Tophill Low NR on 27th November.

Garrion Crow *Corvus corone*

The only comments received were of possible increases in some area of VC64 and the Lower Derwent valley where 44 pairs bred at Thornton Ellers. Elsewhere no change in status.

Outwith the breeding season; groups of 50 or more were not uncommon in the Leeds area with a maximum of 200 at Swillington Ings. Elsewhere, 100 at Sunk Island on 13th November.

Some coastal passage was reported in spring with maxima of 90 at Flamborough on 3rd April and 40 at Spurn on 1st May. Smaller numbers reported during autumn with 60 at Filey on 9th October and 70 at Cromer Point on 19th September as the maxima.

Individuals of the race *C.c.corone* (Hooded Crow) continue to be scarce with two at Flamborough on 17th April and at Cromer Point on 18th. Singles reported occasionally in the Bumiston/ Cromer Point area between 19th January and 23rd April; at Filey on 4th January and from 3rd to 7th May; at Easington on 15th October; Spurn on 16th April, 5th May, 15th and 27th October. The only inland record was from Tophill Low NR on 23rd October and again on 6th November.

Raven *Corvus corax*

A poor year in comparison with 1992; only ten records from VC64 where two were recorded at Malham Tarn on 18th July and two at Greenhow on 25th December. Singles were reported from Gouthwaite Res. on 16th January; Angram on 19th March; Barden Res. on 24th April; Great Whemside on 23rd June; Malham Tarn on 18th and 26th September and lastly at Newhouses on 10th and 15th October. In VC65; three at Swinnergill (Swaledale) during May with three together in Arkengarthdale on 22nd August whilst in VC63, one was at Redmires on 7th June whilst two were occasionally reported from the Midhope/Ewden area.

Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*

No comments received on status thus can only assume no change.

Large roosts reported during the latter months with up to 35,000 at Blacktoft Sands in November; 15,000 at Wheldrake on 8th November and 14,000 at Scorton in early October. The very large roosts of some years ago are definitely an occurrence of the past as is the roost in Leeds City centre.

Some immigration was noted along the coast in autumn with 3,000 at Spurn on 20th October and 1,400 on 30th; 2,500 at Flamborough on 23rd October when a similar number were at Filey, whilst 3,000 were reported from the former on 30th/31st.

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*

The only comment on status received were from a few areas in VC64, all indicating a definite decline. However the 'usual large flocks' were present at Flamborough during late summer/early autumn.

One reported at Malham Tarn on 8th and 14th March was the first there for ten years.

Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus*

The decline in numbers in parts of VC64 would appear to have slowed or even halted. Larger flocks of this species were reported from many areas than of the last species with, in VC61, 450 at Thornton Ellers on 29th November; in VC62, 200+ at Poppleton on 7th January with 100+ remaining until early April; in VC63, 140 at Broomhill Ings on 2nd February; 150 at Wilsic on 30th August and 230 at Lindholme on 1st January. Seventy five at Bolton-on-Swale, VC65, on 6th April being the largest gathering there for many years.

Some passage along the coast with 200 at Flamborough on 6th November; 122 at Filey on 24th October (which includes a now resident flock of c.30 at Filey Dams) and 114 to the east at Sunk Island on 8th October.

Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs*

No reported change in status.

Flocks of 100+ were reported from several locations during both winter periods with the maxima being 500 at Studley on 8th January; 400 at both Ampleforth and Tollerton on 12th December; 200 at Ampleforth on 21st December, also at High Batts NR on 10th December and Dunnington on 28th.

At Spurn, 147 south was the only record of note along the coast during the spring whilst during the latter months, 100 were reported from Flamborough on 15th September with 150 there on 10th October with 150 on 28th and 300 on 29th. Two hundred were at this location on 6th November when 216 flew east at Sunk Island, with 200 south at Spurn the following day.

Brambling *Fringilla montifringilla*

A varied year. Widespread in both VC63 and VC64 during the early months. In VC63, maxima were 700 at Langsett on 8th January; 500 in the Huddersfield area from January through to April with 400 at Totley on 27th January. Two hundred and fifty at Ovenden and 200 at Sowerby Bridge in February. Some 900 during January in the Bradford area whilst 250 were reported from Jagger Woods in March. Conversely, few were reported from the Doncaster area during these months.

In VC64, 150 at Hardisty Hill throughout January/February; 150 at Harrogate on 5th January whilst at Esholt SF up to 120 were present in February with 150 during March. One hundred at South Stainley on 8th March with 120 at Knaresborough on 8th April, whilst many other locations had up to 80 during these months.

One was reported from Church Fenton on 20th June.

More reports from the east of the county during the autumn where up to 100 were recorded from Spurn on several occasions during October plus 150 on 7th November. Flamborough reported 190 on 22nd October with 140 on 23rd, 85 on 26th then 150 on 7th November. This influx was also evident along the Humber at Sunk Island where 308 flew west on 13th October with 58 on 14th then 61 east on 6th November. The only flocks away from the coast, in the east, were 250 at Dunnington on 27th December.

Pronounced passage in autumn through the southwesterly area of VC63 with a total of 3,800 at Strines Top in October where daily maxima were 280 on 10th with 900 on 15th, 330 passing west of Redmires on the latter date. On 29th October, 500 flew northwest at Agden Beck with 400 there the following day.

Few were reported from VC64, invariably less than ten excepting a large passage of 485 to the west at Staveley NR on 13th October.

Serín *Serinus serinus*

Two at Filey on 7th/8th November (DF: GH: FJ et al) constituted the first record for that location. A male at Flamborough on 6th November (PAL).

An immature female at Spurn on 13th March remained to 9th April whilst an immature male was trapped there on 21st April, after roosting overnight it was released at the Point. This, or another bird, was seen flying north near the Warren (four miles north) some three hours later (NAB: DJB et al).

Greenfinch *Carduelis chloris*

No apparent change in status though no comments forthcoming.

Many reports of up to 150 during the winter periods with larger gatherings in the Lower Derwent valley where 200 were at Sutton-on-Derwent on 9th January, 300 at North Duffield on 17th and 23rd with 200 at Bubwith on 17th increasing to 250 by 24th. At Flamborough, 300 were present on 1st January whilst nearby Filey recorded 270 on both 9th January and 13th February. During the latter months; 270 at Wheldrake on 7th December; 300 at both Dunnington and Poppleton on 27th with 200 at Ox Close on 31st.

An influx noted along the coast during late October when, at Flamborough, 500 were present from 28th to 31st, however this was not so marked at Spurn where the maximum reported was 115 on 4th.

Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*

No reported change in status.

Light coastal passage in spring with 65 at Flamborough on 12th March and 57 on 11th April. Spurn reported 62 on 22nd April and then, in early May, 105 on 1st, 100 on 3rd and 109 on 5th. Larger numbers were reported in autumn when Spurn had 129 on 29th September then 170 on 30th; 520 on 4th October followed by 250 on 5th and 375 on 10th. Slightly lower counts at Flamborough where the peaks were 200 on 1st October and again on 17th. Very light passage at Sunk Island with 115 to the east on 10th October as the only notable count.

The largest gatherings reported inland were 300 at Keswick Beck on 1st March; 200 (in a linseed field) at Sutton-on-Derwent on 8th January; 150 to 200 at Tophill Low NR between 28th September and 2nd October whilst 160 were at Walmgate Stray on 27th August.

Siskin *Carduelis spinus*

Few comments on status though in several areas now becoming very common at bird feeders. Record numbers reported during the autumn. Definite breeding was reported from Fountains Abbey (two pairs) whilst individuals were reported at several locations during the summer months in VC62, VC63 and VC64.

Quite widespread throughout the early months with several locations reporting parties of 100+, these being at Hutton Rudby with 150 on 30th January; 175 at Pond Head (Yearsley) on 23rd January; 200 at Keswick Beck (Leeds) during January whilst 300 were at Welbourn on 23rd. Two hundred at Kildale on 21st February.

Record passage was reported along the coast during late October and early November. At Spurn, up to 200 were recorded until 29th October when 400 were present then up to 250 to 6th November on which date 840 were counted with 885 on 7th, 370 on 8th, up to 225 to 12th then 400 on 13th and 100 on 16th, after which only small numbers were noted.

Flamborough reported even larger numbers with 1,000 on 30th October followed by 650 on 6th November and 250 on 7th (the previous highest daily count for Yorkshire being 729 at Spurn on 31st October 1990). Elsewhere in VC61, 100 at Skeffling on 24th October; 100 at Easington on 29th October; 137 at Haverfield Ponds on 6th November and 117 east at Sunk Island on 13th. Inland, Tophill Low NR also reported record numbers with 70 on 22nd October, 180 on 23rd, 150 on 27th and 85 on 31st, whilst 130 were at Dunnington Common on 17th December.

In VC64, 115 were at Gouthwaite Res. on 10th October; 100 at Newhouses on 18th October; 120 at Stocksbridge during November and 200 at Swillington Ings during December.

Linnet *Carduelis cannabina*

No comments received on status thus assumed to be no change.

Relatively small parties in the west during both winter periods excepting 520 at Garforth during November. In VC64, several large parties of 100 in spring with 150 at Fountains Abbey on 27th April and 200 at Haugh Farms on the same date. During the autumn, 150 at Spofforth on 11th August whilst

several flocks of up to 200 were present in the Aire valley between August and October. In VC65, 120 at Nosterfield on 30th October was the only flock of note.

Very large flocks in VC61 with 400 at Wheldrake on 23rd February and 450 in the same vicinity on 2nd March. On 1st January 170 were at Flamborough. Similarly, in November/December, generally small numbers though 120 at Tophill Low NR on 27th December where this species is normally very scarce at this period. Three hundred at Riccall on 17th November and 400 at Crockey Hill on 27th December.

Spring passage along the coast peaked, at Flamborough, on 10th and 17th April with 200 and 250 respectively; at Filey with 250 on 3rd April and Spurn with 100 to 400 on many days between early April and mid May, with maxima of 700 on 10th April, 800 on 16th and 800 on 20th. Along the Humber, 188 flew east at Sunk Island on 11th April.

The main autumn passage occurred at Spurn from mid September to early October peaking with 1,400 on 29th September, 550 on 30th then 750 on 4th October with 425 on 15th. Flamborough had 550 on 6th September with c.600 during most of October but higher counts of 750 on 24th, 1,200 on 28th and 800 on 31st. After 500 during the first week of November at this site, the species became quite scarce. The peak at Filey was 300 on 25th September. Easterly passage at Sunk Island was frequently reported with peaks of 493 on 19th September and 406 on 2nd October.

Twite *Carduelis flavirostris*

Very few breeding records form VC64 where considered (hoped?) not to be a true reflection of status. Similar comments from VC63 where no population estimate was available and also considered to be under recorded.

Eighteen at Mount Tabot, VC63, on 2nd January and 25 at Norland on 16th were unusual mid winter records. In spring, in VC63, 50 at Blackstone Edge on 31st March; 15 at Holme on 14th April and six in the Little Don valley on 25th March. Eleven at Pallet Hill, VC65, on 28th March.

In VC63, 220 at Cumsworth Dene on 28th August was the largest post breeding flock reported whilst 66 were at Ovenden on 29th September. Sixty at Leeshaw Res. on 24th July and 60 at Cold Edge Road on 7th September. Large parties in VC64 were near Malham Tarn with 50 on 6th June and 15th September, then 60 on 10th October.

Up to 32 were at Spurn during early January with up to 20 during the latter half of February. Light autumn passage at Spurn with peaks of 35 on 27th and 23 on 29th September. Eighteen were present there on 18th October whilst a flock of 24 on 26th had increased to 40 by 6th November. A flock of 20 to 25 were present from 25th November to the year's end. Autumnal passage at Flamborough also light with up to eight occasionally in October but 35 on 6th, 38 on 17th and 19 on 27th.

Along the Humber, 26 at Welwick on 7th February and 16 on 16th March; small numbers at Sunk Island with ten on 14th March but, at Stone Creek, 300 on 7th November (SM).

Redpoll *Carduelis flammea*

The decline continues. Comments were 'very poor year' (Flamborough); 'becoming scarcer' (Filey); 'rare' (Atwick); 'very low numbers, may no longer breed' (Tophill Low NR); 'very low numbers south of York' (York Orn. Club report); 'unbelievably only two breeding records' (VC64).

Coastal passage very light with maximum reported being 16 at Spurn on 4th October. Inland, in the York area, rare south of the city but more widespread to the north with 40 at Kirkham Priory on 25th January whilst during the latter months 150 were near Kilburn on 13th November; 100 at Ampleforth on 12th December with 50 at Dunnington on 14th. In VC64, 95 were recorded at Fairburn Ings on 24th February with 80 at Lindley Wood Res. in April then, in the latter months, 50 on Barden Moor during September and 150+ at Timble Ings on 6th November. Seventy-five were in Colsterdale, VC65, on 23rd October.

Crossbill *Loxia curvirostra*

A poor year in several areas. Few indications of breeding; a female and juvenile at Skipwith Common on 30th March and a family party at Midhope Res. in mid May.

Small parties, up to ten, were quite well distributed in parts of VC63 and VC64 with larger gatherings of, in VC63, 12 in Ewden Beck on 13th August; 28 north at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 21st August and 72 north at Midhope Res. on 29th June. Nineteen were at Malham Tam, VC64, on 25th October and up to 13 at Timble between 28th October and 28th November.

Ten were at Skipwith Common on 28th February with singles very occasionally along the coast at Spurn, Filey and Flamborough and the Humber at Skeffling.

Common Rosefinch *Carpodacus erythrinus*

A first year male at Filey on 23rd May. At Spurn, two singing males on 23rd May; a male on 30th/31st with a 'brown' bird on 3rd and 15th June whilst another singing male was present on 17th and 16th. A female/immature was at Whitestone Point on 5th July whilst a similarly plumaged bird was at Flamborough on 10th.

During the latter months only one bird was reported from Spurn, on 17th September whilst, at Flamborough, two were present on 19th September, one on 21st, four on 13th October, two on 14th with one the following day.

**Bullfinch** *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*

Considered to be under reported in many areas. No comments received on the status thus assumed to be unchanged. Whilst always considered rather scarce in VC65 regular ringing near Catterick has shown this to be the single best site for ringing Bullfinches in Britain.

Many parties of five to ten reported with 14 at Fairburn Ings on 12th June; 15 at Dunnington Common on 17th December but 30 at High Batts NR on 12th September.

Individuals considered to be of the large nominate race *P.p.pyrrhula* were reported occasionally along the coast with five at Filey on 16th October and one at Flamborough on 12th then two on 27th/28th.

Hawfinch *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*

A poor year in VC64; scarce in VC65 whilst records from VC63 were not forthcoming. Status would probably be unchanged.

Scarce to the east of the Vale of York with single birds at Spurn on 16th September and 26th October whilst one was at Kilnsea on 9th November. In the York area, singles at Wheldrake on 21st May and Castle Howard on 26th June with four at Escrick on 23rd September.

In VC64, 20 were at Fountains Abbey on 11th February; three at Staveley NR on 24th October with two at Temple Newsam on 12th May. Single birds occasionally reported from Bishop Wood; Ledsham; Hellwath; Fairburn Ings and Mickletown Ings. The only records for VC65 were of singles birds near Whitedliffe Woods on 22nd January and 31st December.

Blackpoll Warbler *Dendroica striata*

A first winter individual at Danes Dyke, Flamborough from 24th October to 1st November (SC: PAL PJW et al) was the first record for Yorkshire and for the east coast of Britain.

Lapland Bunting *Calcaeus lapponicus*

A record year which culminated in the largest numbers ever reported from Yorkshire.

Good numbers at both Flamborough and Filey in spring with, at the former, 21 on 9th January, 20 on 14th February with 25 on 28th then 23 on 13th March. At the latter, 32 on 2nd January then up to 20 until 24th April. Sixteen were at Bempton on 23rd February.

All coastal locations recorded birds during the autumn with many large gatherings. At Spurn, 52 on 28th October with 16 remaining to 1st November then up to 19 to 1st December and 11 on 2nd. Southerly passage was frequently reported there with peaks of 37 on 29th October, 38 on 16th November with 32 on 11th. Twenty-five were at Beacon Ponds on 23rd October with 65 on 26th, 22 remaining until the year's end. Easington had 70 on 7th November with 25 on 20th. On 25th October there were 32 at Bempton followed by 18 on 26th November.

Flamborough reported 21 on 18th September then 19 on 2nd October increasing to 51 by 10th with a large increase to 95 on 23rd then daily totals from 26th October to 2nd November of; 100; 406; 416; 302; 230; 280; 200; 400 with 400 again on 6th November. There were 200 on 7th November, 100 on 23rd with up to 86 to the year's end. A similar influx at Filey where maxima were 65 on 30th October; 90 on 13th November and 48 on 12th December.

In VC62, 12 flew north over Burniston on 25th October; 23 at Cromer Point on 4th November with 17 at Jackson's Bay on 16th November and 12 at Whitby on 5th December plus 19 at Burniston on 27th.

Recorded inland, in VC63, at Blacktoft Sands on 10th April when one flew west. A male in summer plumage was reported from Pugney's CP. on 24th August; one northeast over Thornton Moor on 16th September with four to the southeast there on 30th October. Two were at Southfield Res. on 13th November with one on 14th.

Snow Bunting *Plectrophenax nivalis*

Quite widespread along the coast though nowhere common and few during the early months. the maxima in this period being 18 at Spurn on 27th February; 14 at Filey on 10th March whilst 15 were well up the Humber, at Broomfleet, on 6th January. Larger numbers during the latter months when peaks were 12 at Spurn on 30th October plus 60 flying south there on 11th November; 37 at Flamborough on 7th November; 25 at Filey on 31st October with 33 on 16th November and 60 on 29th. Fifteen were at Bempton on 26th November; 25 at Long Nab on 3rd December and 16 near Hawsker on 6th November.

Inland, singles in the York area at Cliffe Bend on 17th November and at Riccall on 17th. In VC63, one at Oxstones on 17th October; two west at Thorpe Marsh on 11th November; one at Angler's CP. on 17th November with three at Thornton Moor Res. on 24th and one on 30th. Two at Leventhorpe Ash Ponds, VC64, on 1st January; one at Rough Close with four at Dambrook on 5th January then one at Ilkley Moor on 27th February. One at Swillington Ings on 10th November.

Yellowhammer *Emberiza citrinella*

Status would appear to be unchanged.

During the early months, the largest gatherings reported were of up to 300 at Hay-a-Park GP from January through to March; 200 at Filey on 14th February with 170 on 20th March and 120 at Burniston on 28th February whilst as late as April, 100 were flushed from near Nidd Gorge. In the latter months, 150+ were at West Huddersley during November/December with 100+ at Beal and Brotherton.

Migrants at Flamborough were evident in October where peaks were 110 on 10th, 80 on 28th and 31st with 60 on 5th November.

A female at Flamborough on 23rd October lacked any yellow pigment giving rise to conjecture.

Ortolan Bunting *Emberiza hortulana*

In September single juveniles at Filey on 9th (HJW et al); 15 to 19th (AN: DJS et al); at Hawsker on 15th /16th (RSS et al); at Flamborough on 14th with two present the following day (PAL). Two were at Spurn on 15th with one still present on 16th (PJA: JC et al). Singles at Flamborough on 13th October (DIMW) and at Spurn on 30th.

Rustic Bunting *Emberiza rustica*

One (probably a female) at Filey Dams on 11th/12th April (KS: HJW et al). A male at Beacon Ponds on 11th May (ALD et al). One at Flamborough on 3rd October (PAL).

Little Bunting *Emberiza pusilla*

At Filey, one seen on several days between 22nd October and 4th November (DBY: JH: AN et al). One at Flamborough on 23rd October (AMA).

Addition to the 1992 Report: One at Flamborough on 4th October (MA: RH: JG et al).

Reed Bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus*

Stated to be increasing at Fairburn Ings otherwise considered to be stable elsewhere in VC64; numbers decreasing at Tophill Low NR. No other comments received excepting that the use of oil-seed rape as a breeding habitat still increases.

No particularly large gatherings reported though 17 on Baildon Moor on 30th May was unusual. Light coastal passage noted at Spurn with a peak of 34 on 18th October.

Corn Bunting *Miliaria calandra*

Still decreasing in VC64 with no records west of a line Leeds/Harrogate and fewer breeding reports east of that line. No comments from other areas.

Large gatherings reported during the early months were 100 at Dringhouses, York, throughout January; 100 at Bielby on 14th February; 118 at Barkston Ash on 28th February whilst 100 were at Broomhill Ings on 3rd April. Flocks during the latter months were smaller; 50 at Broomhill Ings on 23rd October and 46 at Barkston Ash in December being the largest.

Good numbers along the coast with 120 at Flamborough on 17th January; 90+ at Filey in February peaking at 99 on 6th then 81 on 5th March and 60 on 21st. Forty at Easington on 13th February. As at inland locations, numbers smaller during the latter months with a peak of 55 at Flamborough on 25th October then c.50 present there until the year's end.

The Need for Field Descriptions.

It is our aim to continue to present these reports with complete accuracy so that those who use them in the future may accept the records of all species without doubt or query.

To maintain this accuracy, contributors are reminded that all records of rare or uncommon and difficult species are considered by the Reports Committee before being accepted for publication and where appropriate, forwarded to British Birds for their decision.

The work of the Reports Committee can be aided considerably if observers will submit descriptions as soon as possible after the bird has been seen. Details should include the description taken in the field before reference to any text books, the locality, date and time, habitat, weather conditions, optical aids used, distance from the bird, period of observation, species present for comparison, if any, and previous experience of the species. Forms based upon those by *British Birds* Rarities Committee can be obtained from any Vice-Country Recorder for submitting details of any of the species listed below:

Uncommon and Difficult Species

Cory's Shearwater	Pomarine Skua (inland records only)
Great Shearwater	Long-tailed Skua (inland records only)
Mediterranean Shearwater	Ring-billed Gull
Storm Petrel (sight records)	Sabine's Gull
Leach's Petrel	Roseate Tern
Little Egret	Black Guillemot
Purple Heron	European Bee-eater
White Stork	Short-toed Lark
Spoonbill	Woodlark
Bean Goose	Richard's Pipit
Ruddy Shelduck	Tawny Pipit
Ring-necked Duck	Cetti's Warbler
Ferruginous Duck	Savi's Warbler
Surf Scoter	Aquatic Warbler
Honey Buzzard	Marsh Warbler
Red Kite	Icterine Warbler
Montagu's Warbler	Melodious Warbler
Rough-legged Buzzard	Dartford Warbler
Golden Eagle	Barred Warbler
Spotted Crake	Pallas's Warbler
Corncrake	Red-breasted Flycatcher
Common Crane	Golden Oriole
Stone Curlew	Woodchat Shrike
Kentish Plover	Chough
Temminck's Stint	Senn
Pectoral Sandpiper	Common Rosefinch
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	Girl Bunting
Red-necked Phalarope	Ortolan Bunting
Grey Phalarope	Little Bunting

British Birds Rarities.

A complete list of species, descriptions of which are required by *British Birds* before publication in the Annual Report on Rare Birds in Great Britain, was last published in *British Birds*, Vol. 81 (1981) number 9, pages xv and xvi.

Races and other unusual occurrences.

The Reports Committee may request descriptions to support records of well-defined races of common species, or to support records of migrant birds out of season and commoner birds seen in unusual circumstances.

Rare Breeding Birds in Yorkshire.

Observers who have first-hand knowledge of rare breeding birds within the county are requested to submit their evidence to the appropriate Vice-county Recorder, Report Editor or direct to the Rare Breeding Birds Panel, if the observer so wishes. The system used by the Panel for indicating geographical locations is done on a regional basis with Yorkshire being part of 'England North'. In some instances the county will be named but should the observer request omission of 'Yorkshire' this will be respected by the Panel with only the region being named.

A full list of the species considered by the Panel appeared in *British Birds* 81:102-103. Species that are known to have bred or attempted to have done so in recent years, in Yorkshire, are listed below.

Black-necked Grebe	Quail
Little Bittern	Comcrake
Pintail	Avocet
Garganey	Ruff
Pochard	Black-tailed Godwit
Honey Buzzard	Little Gull
Marsh Harrier	Golden Oriole
Montagu's Harrier	Black Redstart
Goshawk	Fieldfare
Hobby	Common Rosefinch
Parrot Crossbill	

Panel report forms are available from the Report Editor or direct from the RBB Panel :
Dr M. A. Ogilvie, Glencairn, Bruichladdich, Isle of Islay. PA49 7UN.

Local Reports.

The following local society and club reports for 1993 have been received and those readers requiring more information on the areas concerned should consult the relevant report.

Birds in Huddersfield (Huddersfield Birdwatchers' Club)

Birds in Sheffield (Sheffield Bird Study Group)

Bradford naturalists' Society

Bradford Ornithological Group

Castleford and District Naturalists' Society

Doncaster Bird Report (Doncaster and District Ornithological Group)

Filey Brigg Bird Report (Filey Brigg Ornithological Group)

Flamborough Bird Report (Flamborough Ornithological Group)

Halifax Birdwatchers' Club

Harrogate and District Naturalists' Society

Leeds Birdwatchers' Club

Rotherham and District Ornithological Society

South Holderness Countryside Society (Newsletters)

Sorby Natural History Society (Newsletters)

Tophill Low Nature Reserve

Wharfedale Naturalists' Society

York Bird Report (York Ornithological Club)

Reports and lists were also received from individuals or groups for their particular area, being as follows; Barmston; Broomhill Ings; Birds of the Estuary Enquiry; Beacon Ponds/Easington/Holderness Log; Bolton-on-Swale; Mickletown Ings; Pugney's CP.; Pulfin Bog; Staveley NR.; Sunk Island; Winterset Res..

Sketches by: P.J.Dunn; Y.Gabrlovich, J.Sanderson and D.I.M.Wallace.

The following is a list of observers who contributed to the classified list (with apologies for any omissions). The co-operation of these observers and very many others who submitted records to their local societies is very much appreciated.

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